

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE BALTIMORE BLAST

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the team members of the Baltimore Blast, who recently defeated the Monterey La Raza to win the Major Indoor Soccer League, MISL, 2008 Championship.

The Major Indoor Soccer League was formed in 2001 and consists of anywhere between 10 and 15 teams from across the Nation each season. Since the formation of the MISL, the Baltimore Blast has captured four championship titles—in 2003, 2004, 2006, and now 2008.

The Baltimore Blast's winning philosophy is their famous defense. The team has every player defend, and throughout the regular season, the Blast gave up the fewest points in the League. Players on the team are proud to play for the number one organization in the league.

During the off-season, the championship-winning team members of the Baltimore Blast hold summer soccer camps for young soccer players between the ages of 5 and 13 throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. The young players are taught individual skills as well as teamwork.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the Baltimore Blast. Their winning records and multiple championship titles ensure their legacy as a team to be dealt with. It is with great pride that I congratulate the team members of the Baltimore Blast on their fourth MISL Championship win.

### HONORING OUTSTANDING PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL DOCTORS

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding doctors of Providence Hospital right here in our Nation's Capital for the recognition they received from the Washingtonian Magazine this April in its annual issue listing the Washington area region's top doctors. I particularly want to thank Providence Hospital for assisting the most medically underserved and vulnerable members in our metropolitan area with a full range of inpatient and outpatient services. These services range from women's obstetrics and gynecological health, which cater to the health and wellness of mothers and babies, to assisting our elderly community via Carroll Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the three Senior Wellness Centers the Hospital operates.

Providence's concern for all human life and dignity of each person leads the organization to provide medical services to all people regardless of creed, national origin, economic status, or their ability to pay. As a community hospital that serves the entire community, I am proud to recognize these outstanding physicians including Earl M. Armstrong (pulmonology); Michael E. Batipps (neurology); Kathy S. Brennerman (geriatrics); Kenneth M. Brown (gastroenterology); Inder M. Chawla (rehabilitation); Ramville S. Clark (psychiatry); Pamela W. Coleman (urology); Cameron Ghafouri (ophthalmology); Mary G. Hall (plastic surgery); Steven Blair Hopping (plastic surgery); Beverly Johnson (dermatology); Leslie W. Kingslow (pulmonology); Neal W. Kurzok (neurology); Lewis W. Marshall (infectious diseases); John E. McKnight (oncology/hematology); David G. Moore (neurology); William E. Morris (ophthalmology); Abbas Motazedi (endocrinology); James A. Mutcherson, Jr. (allergy/immunology); Thomas Pinder (cardiology); Octavius D. Polk (pulmonology); Joseph A. Quash (cardiology); E. Anthony Rankin (orthopedics); James C. Robertson II (rheumatology) and Kirk D. Williams (otolaryngology).

I am particularly proud that earlier this year, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons elected its first African American President. A graduate of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and the Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Rankin completed his internship and residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and is currently Chief of Orthopedic Service at Providence Hospital. As a five-time recipient of a certificate of commendation from the government of the District of Columbia, Dr. Rankin has received many more honors and awards including the prestigious Bronze Star Award and the Army Commendation Medal.

### IN REMEMBRANCE OF RICHARD M. HERMAN

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Richard M. Herman, and to honor a life spent in service to his community and family.

Richard Herman earned his degree in engineering and was an innovative and dedicated worker. He spent eighteen years at General Electric Company as a mechanical engineer and later founded his own company, Valley Automation, Inc. in 1987. Valley Automation, Inc. is a custom equipment design company and he served as President until his passing.

Mr. Herman had a love of the outdoors and in 1998, he semi-retired to pursue his passions and hobbies. He especially enjoyed fly-

fishing, hiking and kayaking. Mr. Herman is survived by his high school sweetheart, Sally, to whom he was married for forty-four years and his three children; Richard Herman, Ronald Herman, and Donna Riviera. He will be fondly remembered by his four beautiful grandchildren, Nathaniel and Isabel Herman and Ryan and Christopher Riviera.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Richard M. Herman, and to honor his commitment to his passions, work and family. May his exemplary life serve as an example for us all to follow.

### CONGRATULATING NEW ULM, MINNESOTA ON BEING NAMED MINNESOTA'S HONORARY CAPITAL FOR A DAY

#### HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the city of New Ulm on being selected to serve as the Honorary Capital of Minnesota on May 15th, 2008.

This year, Minnesota celebrates 150 years of statehood. Over 10,000 Minnesotans participated in selecting cities to serve as Capital for a Day throughout the week of May 11th–18th to commemorate Minnesota's Sesquicentennial.

I am very pleased that the city of New Ulm was selected for this honor.

New Ulm was settled by German immigrants in the 1850's and throughout its early history served as an important trading center for steamboats carrying goods up the Minnesota River.

New Ulm was once considered the Polka Capital of the Nation and is home to the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, where visitors can view the music memorabilia of national and local artists.

The city is also home to the famous Hermann Monument, a monument to German-Americans and the cultural influence German immigrants have had on the region. The monument, which was dedicated in 1897, overlooks New Ulm from Hermann Heights Park.

Today, New Ulm is a center for agriculture and business and enjoys a thriving tourism industry. Throughout its history, New Ulm has undergone many changes, but it has not lost the historical roots that make it such a wonderful city.

I am pleased to join the State of Minnesota in congratulating New Ulm, Minnesota on this occasion. And I wish them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF PHILIP G. BARDOS

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable career and accomplishments of Philip G. Bardos, born into a Greek immigrant family on March 14, 1927. His life has been one of service to our nation, to the State of California and to every community in which he has lived. He deserves our honor for his military service, contributions to our space program and defense technologies, entrepreneurial success, work as an educational leader and untiring efforts as a volunteer for innumerable organizations and worthy programs.

Born in Pennsylvania to George and Victoria Bardos, an immigrant couple from the island of Rhodes, Phil is the eldest of their six children. Toward the close of the Second World War, Phil was drafted into the United States Army and at the end of the war, was appointed to the United States Military Academy by Congressman Thomas F. Morgan, former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

On June 24, 1950, after graduation from West Point with a bachelor of science degree, the new second lieutenant of infantry married the beautiful Sandra Mitchell, the lady who has been his support and inspiration ever since. But the call to duty came early in their marriage. From late 1951 to 1953, Phil saw combat and was wounded in the Korean War.

After recovery from his wounds, Phil served as an aide-de-camp to LTG William Lawton, Chief of Staff of the Far East Command. On his return to the United States, he served in the President's Honor Guard, 3rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer, Washington DC., from 1956 to 1958. During these years he was one of the officers assigned to duties in President Eisenhower's office and as an aide at State dinners.

Although Phil resigned from the Army in January 1960, he continued to serve in the Army Reserves and retired after thirty five years of service as a lieutenant colonel. Long after Phil and others of his West Point class had retired, he authored *Cold War Warriors*, a book published in 2000 that chronicles the accomplishments and achievements of the Class of 1950.

In the 1960s, Phil put his West Point science and engineering training to work in the burgeoning field of space and defense technology. From 1960 to 1963, he was employed by Bendix Corporation in North Hollywood, California as an assistant chief engineer for the Mercury program, the first man-in-space program. From 1963 to 1965, he was employed by Northrop Corporation as manager of the Tactical Analysis group for drones. And then, from 1965 to 1967, he worked at the Bell & Howell subsidiary, Consolidated Electrodynamics Corporation, in Pasadena, California.

In the next stage of his career, Phil became an entrepreneur, forming a highly successful management consulting business, Bardos & Associates, in 1967. Later, he purchased a small high technology company, Torr Vacuum Products, built it up and then sold it to a large conglomerate in 1986.

Despite the intense pressures of business life, Phil has always found time for involvement in public affairs. After an unsuccessful run for Congress in 1964, he threw himself into volunteer activities for the GOP. Working closely with the indomitable Margaret Brock, he served as president of a Republican volunteer organization for Los Angeles County and as chairman of various fundraising events, including a dinner for Ronald Reagan in Los Angeles in 1965.

In 1971, Phil was elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board and re-elected in 1975. He twice served as president of the board and is credited by many with steering L.A. schools through one of their most difficult periods. Those who worked with him on the Board remember his calming influence and his ability to develop balanced solutions when emotions were running high.

Phil served as president of the Great Western Council of the Boy Scouts of America from 1974 to 1979, and was honored with the prestigious Silver Beaver award. He was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian to the Board of Trustees of the California Community Colleges in 1987. Appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the Committee of Bar Examiners in 1989, he was elected to serve as chairman of the body, the only non-lawyer ever to do so. In 1992, he was Vice President for planning of the organizing committee for the United States World Cup Soccer. And, most recently, he has served as a volunteer member of the Operation First Response for assisting U.S. wounded military personnel.

Phil's career is a chronicle of accomplishment and success, but it is his family that has always been closest to his heart. He is immensely proud of the two sons, Tom and Paul, whom he and Sandy raised, and right to be so, for they have followed in his footsteps. Both were Eagle Scouts and both are successful entrepreneurs and owners of their own businesses. And now, Phil has the pleasure of seeing his grandchildren launch their careers.

Madam Speaker, this country will always be great so long as we have individuals of the caliber of Phil Bardos to dedicate themselves to a life of service to their Nation, state and community.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, AIRMAN EXCEEDS 10,000 FLIGHT HOURS

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Air Force SMSgt Robert Fisher of St. Petersburg, Florida, achieved a milestone on March 29 when he surpassed his 10,000 flight hour.

Sergeant Fisher is a flight engineer with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. He achieved this milestone while flying a KC-10 Extender mission.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks I will include for my colleagues a story from The Pinellas News, one of Sergeant Fisher's hometown newspapers, about this great achievement and about his dedicated service to our Nation in uniform.

Sergeant Fisher enlisted in the Air Force in 1981 and has been flying tanker aircraft since 1986. He has served in Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

LTC Tim White, the commanding officer of the 908th Squadron, paid Sergeant Fisher the highest compliment when he said, "For Sergeant Fisher to eclipse 10,000 hours is a reflection of great dedication to the mission and the art of flying. Sergeant Fisher is one of the greatest assets in the KC-10 community, and his work ethic speaks for itself."

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Sergeant Fisher for this great flying achievement and in thanking him for his service to our Nation and to the cause of freedom throughout the world.

[From the Pinellas News, Apr. 25, 2008]

10,000 FLIGHT HOURS

(By Sr. Armn. Ross M. Tweten, American Forces Press Service)

**SOUTHWEST ASIA.**—A flight engineer with the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing's 908th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron surpassed 10,000 flight hours during a KC-10 Extender mission on March 29. Senior Master Sgt. Robert Fisher, a St. Petersburg native home-stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., ended his landmark flight with 10,003 flight hours.

"The most difficult part about achieving this milestone is just being around long enough to do it," he said with a chuckle. "It feels excellent to be among such a rarified group of people."

The 10,000-flight-hour community is small, and achieving this milestone is all about longevity, he said.

Fisher has been flying the line since 1986. He has been in the air as a flight engineer on the C-141 Starlifter and the KC-10 Extender, and has served in operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"When I first came into the Air Force, there were a lot of 10,000-hour crew members around, and I thought, 'Wow, I'd like to do that,' Fisher said. "But as the years went by, I felt like I'd never get there because, well, our airplanes fly much faster. So I figured 5,000 would be nice. Then, after I reached that, I figured I could probably do about 7,500."

Fisher continued to exceed his goals and reset them. "So when I passed 8,500, it finally hit me that I was really close to my goal of 10,000, and that maybe I could do this, so here I am."

Lt. Col. Tim White, who commands the 908th, said most flyers accumulate 3,000 to 5,000 hours in the span of a career.

"For Sgt. Fisher to eclipse 10,000 hours is a reflection of great dedication to the mission and the art of flying," he said. "If one were to fly around the world for 10,000 hours, he or she would circle the planet over 300 times, or go back and forth to the moon nine times. Sgt. Fisher is one of the greatest assets in the KC-10 community, and his work ethic speaks for itself."

Fisher has had a long bird's-eye view of much of the globe, and he gives most of that credit to the Air Force.

"I've been really lucky in my life, in that the Air Force has given me the opportunities to see a lot of really excellent places and travel the world," he said. "When I enlisted in '81, the recruiter said, 'Hey, join the Air Force, see the world,' and the Air Force has kept up its end of the bargain on that one."

"I'd like to say that I've given the Air Force all these wonderful things," he continued, "but to be honest, the Air Force has given Bob Fisher way more than Bob Fisher has given the Air Force."

# A TRIBUTE TO THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for 115 years of outstanding service to the people of the State of California and this great Nation.

For more than a century, the American Heritage Library and Museum has been operated for the purpose of acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition, and educational interpretation of historical artifacts of the colonial and early periods of America's history. The American Heritage Library and Museum has preserved precious documents by focusing on historic figures who contributed to the history of the State of California, including but not limited to archival records, histories, books, rolls, documents, artifacts and works of art that increase and diffuse knowledge into these periods of history for the enrichment of the citizens of California.

The preservation of our Nation's military heritage has always been of a primary concern of the Sons of the Revolution. When the Sons of the Revolution was formed, a National Archive did not exist. Originally, each branch and agency of the U.S. Government was responsible for maintaining its own documents, which often resulted in the loss and destruction of records. For almost 150 years, the Federal Government had virtually no method or place to safeguard historically important records. As a result, on November 8, 1810, fire destroyed most of the records of the American Army and Navy of the American Revolution in the custody of the War Department.

As part of a national organization, composed solely of the posterity of those venerable men who, by their acts or counsel between April 19, 1775, when the Revolutionary War commenced, and April 19, 1783, when that conflict ceased, in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, or in the service of the Continental Congress or the congress of any of the original 13 Colonies, helped achieve America's independence, these members of the Sons of the Revolution lobbied Congress for the passage of a law that directed the War Department to establish a national collection of both American Revolution and War of 1812 records.

Today, the main National Archives Building holds the original copies of the three main formative documents of the United States and its Government: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as Magna Carta. These are displayed to the public in the main chamber, called the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. The National Archives Building also exhibits other important American historical documents such as the Louisiana Purchase and the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as other historically and culturally significant American artifacts.

The Sons of the Revolution's national efforts to preserve America's priceless heritage was not limited to the establishment of the National Archives. In the intervening years since the establishment of the National Archives, the

Sons of the Revolution in the State of California and its members continued their efforts to preserve the records of both National and State significance and have assembled a collection of some 35,000 volumes of books and manuscripts which have been described as one of the best in its field. And, in keeping with the purpose of the Society, "to collect and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period," for over a century, the members of the Sons of the Revolution, through their patriotic spirit, love of country, and devotion to the principles on which our Nation was founded, have operated and maintained the American Heritage Library and Museum for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of California.

It is because of these numerous accomplishments I rise today to recognize the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California for its 115 years of service to the people of the State and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Sons of the Revolution for its outstanding service to the city of Glendale and surrounding communities.

## HONORING SERGEANT MERLIN GERMAN

### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marine SGT Merlin German, who passed away on April 11, more than 3 years after surviving a roadside blast in Iraq.

Merlin, a graduate of Woodlands High School, was a dedicated friend, son, brother, and citizen. Those who met him could not deny his big heart, entrepreneurial spirit, and great sense of humor. The youngest of eight children born to Dominican immigrants, he and his siblings were not allowed to play with toy guns in the house. Yet this did not prevent him from realizing his childhood goal of serving in the military, and he enlisted in the Marines in September 2003.

Merlin German became part of a weapons platoon for convoy security in Iraq in the fall of 2004 and was charged with spotting improvised explosive devices. On February 20, 2005, a bomb exploded next to his vehicle. Merlin survived the blast, but began his own battle for survival.

Over 97 percent of his body was burned in the explosion, and he was given just a 3 percent chance of survival. Merlin proved to be a true fighter who, despite undergoing more than 100 operations over the next three years, maintained his positive outlook. He cracked jokes and mentored new patients at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where he was an inpatient. While recovering, he started a charitable foundation, Merlin's Miracles, to help burned children.

Sergeant German passed away last month, more than 3 years after returning from Iraq. Only 22 years old, Merlin was a true patriot and inspiration to all. A recipient of the Purple Heart, he fought valiantly on behalf of our country. He continued his fight to improve the lives of others, in his efforts to assist burn victims, upon his return to the U.S. Our Nation is blessed to have dedicated, talented men and women like Merlin German serving in our armed services.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of SGT Merlin German, along with all of our Nations' other fallen heroes.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on its 100th anniversary. On this important centennial, I would like to commemorate the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the shipyard. In their honor, I have introduced H. Res. 1193.

Congress established the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on May 13, 1908, and it has grown from a "coaling and repair station" to being known as the "No Ka Oi Shipyard" and a national treasure that is strategically important to our Nation and equally vital to Hawaii. During World War II, shipyard workers earned the motto, "We keep them fit to fight", by resurrecting the United States Pacific Fleet from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, helping turn the tide of the war at Midway, and maintaining the ships that would ultimately win victory at sea and sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay.

Throughout the decades, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting America's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, and national missile defense. It continues to support the United States Pacific Fleet as the largest ship repair facility between the western coast of the United States and the Far East, providing full-service maintenance for Pacific Fleet ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater.

The shipyard has become the largest single industrial employer in Hawaii and is the largest fully integrated military-civilian workforce involved in full-service shipyard work in the United States. The shipyard has a direct annual economic impact of more than \$600,000,000 in Hawaii, and through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student-hire programs, provides extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities for residents. Moreover, the shipyard has earned multiple national awards for its dedicated environmental stewardship and excellent safety programs, such as the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Star award in May 2007.

On this historic day, I would like to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and congratulate the men and women who provide exceptional service to our military and keep our Pacific Fleet "fit to fight."

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILL O'NEILL

### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay great honor to

William A. O'Neill, who passed away on November 24, 2007. Bill O'Neill was Governor of the State of Connecticut from 1980 until 1991. Before he held Connecticut's highest office, during his Governorship, and after, he was a mentor and friend.

I had the great honor to serve in Connecticut's General Assembly with Bill O'Neill when he was Governor of the State of Connecticut. Bill and Nikki O'Neill were long time friends of East Hartford. Nikki was an educator in my hometown of East Hartford and Bill and I shared a longstanding political friendship from his time in the House of Representatives, where he rose to majority leader, to State party chairman, Lieutenant Governor, and then, of course, Governor of the State.

He was the embodiment of decency and humility. When my father passed away in 1988, Governor and Nikki O'Neill stood in line for more than 2 hours to pay their respects. Though offered countless times to come to the front of the line, he said politely, "I'll stand here with others who are waiting to pay their final respects." His actions made him forever revered in the Larson family and were legendary in East Hartford.

It is a great honor for me to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the words spoken at the funeral services of Connecticut's Governor who, like the sweater he wore in his television ads, made us feel comfortable and at home with a man who understood the everyday problems of the citizens he served so nobly.

The eloquence of the funeral remarks captures the sentiment in St. Patrick's Church that day in East Hampton and all across Connecticut. I submit them as a tribute to Governor O'Neill and his loving wife Nikki. The following are the eulogies of Governor Jodi Rell, James Wade, George Hannon, and the lyrics to the song "We'll Meet Again," during which the entire congregation joined Nikki in a final goodbye:

#### IN MEMORY OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL

To Nikki and to all of Governor O'Neill's family and friends, on behalf of the State of Connecticut I certainly want to offer our deepest condolences.

Nikki, you and Bill were truly a team, a real team. It was always Bill and Nikki, Nikki and Bill. You shared an incredible love; you shared so much, including the ups and downs of life and politics. You shared laughter, memories and friends, and a beloved hideaway home right here. You were fortunate to have each other, and to share your lives with each other. And you were blessed with a great many friends, true friends, real friends—not just acquaintances—that became a family.

The Governor's Irish Gang, including Wade and Hannon is legendary. In fact, some of those tales told at the Capitol of their exploits have become bigger and bigger. A lot of them were told this week, like fish stories, they do keep getting bigger and bigger with each retelling. But like all of us we continue to laugh at the end of each, as if we had never heard them before.

And that's how many of us will remember Bill O'Neill, with a fond smile and a little wry laughter. We will also remember his humanity, his common touch, and his uncommon leadership. He steadied the state at a time when its heart was broken. He led us through difficult financial times and he blazed many a path for equity and advancement. He made a lasting contribution to our education system, our transportation infrastructure, healthcare and veterans issues.

His accomplishments were many and they were far reaching and they were lasting. And

he never lost himself in the glare of being Governor.

He was simply Bill O'Neill, he was someone who loved politics and loved public service. A guy from East Hampton who was honored to be elected to office by his friends and neighbors. A guy who fiercely protected that public trust throughout his entire career. He was a man of his word and he was a man of integrity. Someone who too often was underestimated and frankly too often underappreciated. Someone who never ever dreamed of being Lieutenant Governor or Governor of this great state of Connecticut, but was both and was darned good at it.

His legacy will last for generations and his successes and contributions will last for longer, much longer than that. I received a card this morning in my mail and it really just kind of hit me and it was someone who knew Bill O'Neill briefly; I just wanted to share a couple of points with you. He said dear Governor Rell, I was greatly saddened with the passing of Governor O'Neill this past weekend. I will never forget how gracious and passionate he was during my ten years as a summer tourism supervisor for the Dept. of Economic Development. I remember especially an August day in 1990 when I had a photo session with him, saluting my ten years with the State of Connecticut as just a part timer. I remember he had unusually large hands as he squeezed my right hand, the bond we shared during those ten years was both real and present at that moment. I only hope that I am so gracious as the Governor was to me in his retiring year, just as his loss is huge I salute both him and the Office of the Governor on this day.

Many people talk about Bill O'Neill just the common man, here's a man who met him just once for a photo-op, shook his hand, had his picture taken with him and remembers it this many years later. That's the kind of man Bill O'Neill was.

I'm just going to tell you one quick story, and I promise I will never try to compete with Wade and Hannon. I had the occasion to meet Governor O'Neill at an event after I was sworn in as Governor; and I said to him, Nikki was there, I said, "Governor, I just want to tell you, I want to apologize for anything I ever said bad about you, or to you, because you don't know what it's like being Governor until you're on that side of the desk, and he looked at me and said, Jodi, you never said anything bad about me, that I can remember. And I know that you never said anything bad to me. Good luck." And I thanked him.

I want to say thank you to you Nikki, for sharing him with us, he absolutely adored you and that is evident in his life and love of you.—Governor M. Jodi Rell

Bill O'Neill was not a proud person. Modest, humble, self-effacing—now those are words you would associate with Bill O'Neill. But never proud.

During his years as governor, his pollster, Al Unger, would periodically take the pulse of the electorate to see how he was doing with them. He would ask the voter, "If you could describe Bill O'Neill in a single word, what would it be?" Year after year the unsuggested responses came back: "Honest," "Reliable," "Trustworthy". As Al said, "Not a bad set of words to describe how you are perceived by your fellow citizens."

Not a proud man, but what I call a "proud of man. By that, I mean he was proud of the people, the institutions and the places he served that molded his character.

For example, Bill O'Neill was proud of being Irish. As you know, his mother was born in Ireland. On some of his trips there he would visit his mother's home town of Port Laoise and spend time with the locals just to

absorb the atmosphere that helped shape his mother, her thoughts and ideas. On one trip, he went to a rugby match and wound up the evening in a rugby club in Limerick full of rowdy, laughing, singing rugby players. O'Neill broke into a ballad called "Til We Meet Again" in a pure tenor voice. He brought the place to silence with not a dry eye in the house. Now there was a side of Bill O'Neill that the Connecticut public never saw.

He was proud of being Catholic. It was a quiet, ingrained faith that he did not wear on his sleeve or drag out in an election year to pick up a few votes. Rather, it gave him an abiding moral code which impacted his entire life and decision-making process.

And, of course, he was proud of being a Democrat. He directed that every single piece of political material that bore his name should also bear the title—Democrat. He saw himself as being cut from the Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, Ribicoff, Grasso line of Democrats. He was fiscally conservative, yet had a social conscience that led him to believe the little guy should enjoy the same opportunity to get ahead in life as he had. As Democratic State Chairman, following the death of John M. Bailey, he personally held the party together as it went through a spasm of rule changes and reapportionment. And, of course, it was the climactic vote before the Democratic State Central Committee whereby he was re-elected State Chairman that solidified his role as a political figure in his own right.

He was proud of the state of Connecticut. He saw his fellow Nutmeggers as hard-working and industrious people who would follow his lead. On the campaign trail, he would repeat his mantra that "I am not a show horse, I am a work horse." The people of Connecticut believed that because it was true and returned him to office twice.

He was proud of the Office of Governor. He believed it was a mantle of trust, given to him by the people of his state and that he was duty bound not only to wear that mantle with distinction but to return it in as good a condition as he received it. So, he was forever conscious of how his conduct would reflect on that office, a consciousness that stood him in good stead.

He was proud of his accomplishments as Governor, not as much for what these accomplishments said about him, but because of what they meant in the daily lives of the people he was elected to serve. Shelter for the homeless. A job for the unemployed. Safe roads and bridges for the traveler. Care for the elderly and infirm. Education for a child. A hand up. Not a hand-out.

He was proud of being a politician. He saw it as a calling from which he did not shrink. For him, a politician's word was his bond. He recognized that in America the people who built our nation and our states were politicians. Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln, FDR, the people whom we revere, were all politicians. And, he loved the hurly burly of politics. Whether he was counting votes to gain the nomination at a state convention or challenging attacks on him as a candidate, O'Neill had no peer. His political instincts and street savvy were dead on. And, oh, did he love a parade. George Hannon used to say that a lot of men relax by playing golf or watching a ball game, but, give O'Neill a parade and he was happy as a clam—especially if the parade fell on March 17th.

He was proud of East Hampton. If you wanted to find the tap root of Bill O'Neill, you need to look no further than this community where he grew up, was educated, lived and died. His little house on Lake Pocotopaug was Shangri-La as far as Bill was concerned. Old Home Day was an event

not to be missed, regardless of his gubernatorial duties. And, of course, O'Neill's Tavern was the spot where old friends gathered and new friends were made.

He was proud of the people he appointed who formed part of the O'Neill administration. He did not seek to be surrounded by yes men or women, but rather by people who had the confidence to carry out their tasks with the knowledge that they were fulfilling the O'Neill goal of providing a better place for the people of Connecticut. Tony Milano, who guided him through the budgetary process in good financial times and bad. Bill Burns who carried out the largest highway infrastructure program in the country. Jay Jackson, his peerless and trusted attorney. Chad McCollam who provided years of good counsel as his Chief of Staff, followed by his successor, David McQuade. His loyal secretary, Anne DeNoia, and the woman who ran the scheduling for the governor's mansion, Ruth Sharaf, all helped shape the O'Neill years. And, Tim Bannon, Tax Commissioner, speech writer, advisor and office wit—all roles that Bill O'Neill relied on. So many others.

He also was proud of the prominent roles in government that he filled for the first time with members of ethnic and minority groups and women. Bill O'Neill appointed the first female State Treasurer, the first female Attorney General, the first African-American Associate Justice and the first female Chief Justice to serve on the Connecticut State Supreme Court. He also appointed the first Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of Polish and Italian extraction. He opened the door to strong and capable individuals and the doors he opened will never be closed again.

I'm not sure he was proud of George Hannon, Jack Mahaney and me, but we made him laugh so he kept us around. And, every now and then, we managed to get in a word of advice that he actually followed. As a result of the several political battles that we fought together, it can be said with confidence, that the four of us became: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

He was proud of the Troopers who drove him and protected him—Rick Perdue, Jim Gaylord and Al Lane. They were the sons he never had. In his final days at the Nursing Home when he could not help himself, Al and Jim were there feeding him. What does tell you about friendship and loyalty?

And, finally, he was proud of his wife, Natalie—known to all of us as Nikki. What a team! In every election in which he ran, she was there plotting strategy, rounding up votes, thanking donors and workers. Like Bill, her political sonar was dead on. He listened to her, to her counsel and followed her advice. He was proud of the grace and charm that she shared with the people of Connecticut as its First Lady. The two were a pair that couldn't be beaten—and, by the way, never were.

So, there you have it. Bill O'Neill—Reliable, Honest and Trustworthy.

And, Old Pal, because you lived your life and ran your administration by that code, the people of Connecticut were proud of you.

And, if I can indulge myself in a little hubris, I am proud I was able to call you my friend.—James Wade

Governor Rell, Senators, Representatives, I haven't seen this many politicians under one roof since an O'Neill fundraiser in 1986. I'll not speak to you about the many accomplishments of Bill O'Neill; they are well documented in Connecticut history. I'll tell you about the Bill O'Neill I met in 1967 and beyond. I refer to them as recollections and reflections; 41 years ago this month Bill O'Neill was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly, you couldn't miss him, his tight dark curly red hair, trimmed perfectly, his cadet-like erectness, neat and natty of dress, except for what turned out to be his

favorite trademark, a hounds-tooth sports jacket that contained at least 19 colors. We found out over a period of years the jacket would just not wear out. Some of us asked, no begged, Nikki, his wife of then four years, to have the jacket burned. She just wouldn't or couldn't do the deed.

The jacket was a staple at the Capital from 1967 to 1970, but as fate would have it, O'Neill and his jacket appeared in a campaign photo with Gubernatorial Candidate Emilio Daddario in 1970, the good news was, that O'Neill won reelection, the bad news was that Mim didn't. Now I'm not saying that the jacket had anything to do with Mim's loss, but you never know.

Bill was not a culinary trail blazer. What he wanted, Nikki cooked. When asked by a few of us if he would join a small group for dinner, he demurred saying, Nikki's cooking a pot roast. Secretly, we kept track of his subsequent refusals. They added up in one year to 87 pot roasts, 32 meatloafs, and 19 hot dog dinners. In 1991, after Bill and his lovely wife Nikki retired to the lake, he would often call during the summer and ask what Sue and I were doing for dinner. The four of us would meet at the Governor's Tavern, the successor to O'Neill's tavern. Now dinner and cocktails for four is not very complicated, Bill made it even less complicated. When menus were handed out, Nikki turned and whispered to Sue and me, "I don't know why they're giving him a menu, he orders the same thing every time. A half order of tenderloin tips and a side of mashed potato." Nikki was right, over the next four years, every time we gathered, Bill would take his menu and look at it from cover to cover. And then order a half order of tenderloin tips and a side of mashed potatoes.

Back in '82 during the gubernatorial campaign we hired what we considered to be the best pollster and the best media guru. We launched a massive number of cocktail parties, many at the homes of his ardent supporters. It was an undertaking that would push Bill and Nikki into multiple appearances in an evening and weekends. I was asked and I won't say by whom, I was asked, late in the campaign, why we needed so many cocktail parties, my response was, "because we are in an aggressive and people oriented campaign". The person shook his or her head and said, "Well, we may win the election, but I hope Bill and Nikki will outlast that." They did and O'Neill won.

Bill has a church full of relatives, friends, admirers honoring him today. I see faces in the crowd today of people who served with him, those who worked for him and of course his beloved people from East Hampton, who he never forgot. As I express my feelings towards him, I know they are also yours. He was my dear friend before he was governor, he was my dear friend when he was my governor, he was my dear friend after he became retired. I remember the phone would ring when it was his turn to call me in Naples, and when I answered, when it was him, I knew what he was going to say, "how are you old pal?"

Men are not usually known for their long friendships with other men, women do a much better job with long term friendships. But I am now, and will be forever grateful and touched by the relationship between Bill and me. Like all celebrations, this one will end soon. Nikki, asked me to tell you a brief story about Bill's favourite chanteuse, now Irish kids don't get a chance to use that word, chanteuse, very often. Well if you got your dictionary handy, chanteuse is a singer of folk narratives with simple stanzas. Bill's chanteuse of choice was a Brit, circa 1940's, her name was Vera Lynn. She's best known for her rendition of "White Cliffs of Dover" during World War II. But lesser know, and Bill's favourite, was her rendition of "We'll Meet Again". Soon, we leave this church

today, remember well the simple and true words of Vera Lynn, "we'll meet again, goodbye for now Bill."—George Hannon

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

(By Vera Lynn)

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through,  
Just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away

So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know  
Tell them I won't be long  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go  
I was singing this song

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

[We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

Keep smiling through  
Just like you always do,  
'Til the blue skies  
Drive the dark clouds far away  
So will you please say "Hello"  
To the folks that I know.  
Tell them it won't be long.  
They'll be happy to know  
That as you saw me go,  
I was singin' this song.

We'll meet again,  
Don't know where,  
Don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT  
IADAROLA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Antoinette "Toni" Iadarola, president of Cabrini College in Delaware County in Radnor, Pennsylvania. On June 30th of this year, Dr. Iadarola will retire after 16 years as president of the College.

During a tenure which comprises more than 30 percent of the College's 50-year history, Dr. Iadarola has led Cabrini to expand academic offerings, construct state-of-the-art facilities, and raise its regional and national profile. The College's academic standing was enhanced, SAT scores and grade-point-averages of incoming students increased, and full-time undergraduate enrollment grew from 763 in 1992 to 1,650 in 2008.

Under her leadership, the College completed \$100 million in capital improvements, and the endowment and reserves increased from \$3 million to \$30 million. During her tenure, Cabrini's annual operating budget went from \$12.3 million to more than \$60 million.

With a history of preparing students for engaged citizenship, Cabrini was among the first

institutions of higher learning nationally to implement community service into its core curriculum, and was the first in Pennsylvania to require community service of all its students. For the second year in a row, the College was named to the President's Higher Education Community Honor Roll with Distinction for General Community Service. In 2005, Cabrini became the first college in the country to sign an agreement with Catholic Relief Services to support the organization's global outreach program.

As a founding member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE), Dr. Iadarola helped procure more than \$20 million from private and government sources for the eight-school consortium.

Dr. Iadarola serves on the U.N. Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict and Peace; on the board of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; and on the board of Pennsylvania Campus Compact. In 2001, she was named "One of the 30 Most Powerful People on the Main Line" by Main Line Life Magazine, and in 2006, she was named a Woman of Distinction by the Philadelphia Business Journal and the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Her extraordinary tenure as president is more than double the national average for private-college presidents, as measured by the American Council on Education.

#### HONORING CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE GIRLS UIL 5A STATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

#### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2008 Carroll High School girls' soccer team. On Saturday, April 12, 2008 they earned the UIL 5A State Championship title and finished their season with an impressive 24-4-4 record.

On the afternoon of April 12, 2008, in Round Rock, Texas, the Carroll High School girls soccer team was determined not to let the past few years of history repeat itself. Under Head Coach Matt Colvin and his staff, the Lady Dragons posted an amazing 24 shut-outs during the season. In the playoff opener the Lady Dragons shutout the 2005 state champions in regulation before winning in overtime with a score of 2-1. Utilizing the amazing strength of the Carroll defense, the Lady Dragons went on to shut out their next five opponents in the playoffs by an 8-0 margin.

Leadership, discipline, and accountability were the driving forces that took the Lady Dragons to the pitch every match. The team's resilience, fortitude, and determination to overcome challenges helped propel the Lady Dragons to an amazing season capped off with 2-1 victory in the state title match.

The Lady Dragons have proven themselves to be gifted not only on the soccer field but in the classroom. The team exemplifies the enthusiasm and determination it takes to succeed in academics and athletics.

It is a distinct honor to represent Carroll High School in Congress, and I congratulate

the players, coaches, fans and family members who made the 2008 season such a memorable one.

#### CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE STRONG TEXAS-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary and to recognize the strong partnership between my home State of Texas and Israel. Israel has made tremendous strides since its establishment in 1948—and today it is a strong security and trading partner with the United States. Israel's growing business sector has benefited the United States as a whole and the State of Texas.

Because of this growing partnership, the Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce was established in Richardson, Texas. Texas is Israel's third largest U.S. trading partner—exporting over \$1 billion in goods in 2007. The State's low taxes, affordability and strategic trade location make Texas a great place for Israeli companies to do business. Additionally, Texas's reputation as a leader in telecommunications, energy and security technologies make the State very attractive to Israel. With the second highest number of companies on NASDAQ and strong investment incentives, Israel is equally attractive to U.S. investment. Israel boasts an extremely high level of skilled engineers and is the world leader in medical device patents.

Through the State's Department of Agriculture, the Texas-Israel Exchange program has encouraged the development of business relationships and joint technology research for agriculture and natural resources.

The strong ties Texas shares with Israel are reflective of our Nation's valued friendship with the Jewish community. I am grateful for the bonds our two countries share and I will continue to work to strengthen our relationship for the next generation.

#### INTRODUCING NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION

#### HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to designate June as National Aphasia Awareness Month. Aphasia is a disease that causes the loss of the ability to produce and/or comprehend language. It can also impair a person's ability to read and write. Each case is different depending on the severity of the stroke or brain trauma. This condition is a result of damage to the left hemisphere of the brain. The main cause of aphasia is stroke, but other causes of aphasia include blows to the head, gunshot wounds, and brain tumors. Strokes are the third leading cause of death and disability in the United States today, and the effects of aphasia are borne not only by the victim but also by the victim's family and friends.

Currently there is research being done on how to help people with aphasia enjoy a better quality of life. Aphasia does not cause any kind of disability in thinking or learning but can affect expressive and receptive language, as well as impair a person's ability to read and write. People who suffer from aphasia are able to function in everyday life, but they need assistance and attention. Moreover, further research is needed to improve our understanding of how to identify the risk factors that cause aphasia, prevent the occurrence of aphasia and improve the ability to function of those with the disease.

There are currently about one million cases of aphasia in the United States, and about 80,000 people are afflicted with the disease every year. By working with vocational specialists, speech-language pathologists and family and friends, many of those with aphasia may be able to obtain some sense of normalcy and regain some of their skills.

I am introducing this resolution as I did last year to support the goals of National Aphasia Awareness Month with the hope that it will bring more attention to this disease and give a voice to those who suffer from aphasia who often cannot speak for themselves. Last year when we honored June as National Aphasia Awareness Month it meant a great deal to the groups and doctors working on preventative measures and conducting new research for this disease.

This resolution recognizes June 2008 as National Aphasia Awareness Month in hopes of drawing more attention to this illness and in hopes that more recognition will highlight the importance of research and compassion for the daily struggle faced by those affected by aphasia.

#### HONORING THE HARFORD DAY SCHOOL DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Harford Day School's Destination ImagiNation, DI, team, who recently won first place in the "Chorific Improv" competition at the statewide Destination ImagiNation competition and is headed to the national finals this month in Tennessee.

Destination ImagiNation is a place where kids take what they know and what they excel at and learn to apply it to solve challenges, working cooperatively with a team and pushing the limits of imagination. Destination ImagiNation is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds the participants' creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. Teams of five to seven members work together to apply critical thinking and their particular talents to solve a Team Challenge. A Destination ImagiNation Team Challenge is a challenge that is solved over a period of 8 weeks. Each Team Challenge is designed to be open-ended and solvable in many ways and on many levels.

The Harford Day School DI team participated in the Chorific Improv Problem this year. The criteria for the Team Challenge focused on improvisational acting, story development,



theater arts, team work, and sound design. Their challenge was to create a 6-minute improvisational skit about an ordinary, randomly selected chore in just 30 minutes at the Tournament. In addition, they had to integrate a randomly selected famous person into their skit.

The Team's chore was to brush the dog. They created a cardboard dog on a leash, and their setting was a train on which they were riding to a dog show. In their skit, they had to overcome two randomly selected obstacles, which in their case meant the only brush they had was their mother's brush, and the bristles were falling out. Erasmus Darwin was the famous person the Team needed to incorporate into their skit. As he was a poet and a scientist, the team member playing Darwin's character made up a poem to recite. As the scientist, they had their mother's brush evolve into a dog brush and they used the fire from the train engine to melt the bristles in place.

Harford Day School is a private school located in Bel Air, Maryland, which serves students from pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade. The school's team members include Ally Wright, Drew Devanney, Tommy Oursler, Charlotte Molali, Livy Ayd, Sammy Bowen, and Will Bolton. The team is led by managers Donna Peck and Marcy Sparks.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Harford Day School's Destination ImagiNation team. Their high scores at the Maryland statewide competition ensure their reputation as a team to be reckoned with in the national finals. It is with great pride that I congratulate the members of the Harford Day School DI team on their success in the statewide competition, and wish the team luck as they progress to the national finals.

#### HONORING SAINT AUGUSTINE FOR THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 140th Anniversary of Saint Augustine.

Saint Augustine Church is the oldest Black Catholic church in the Nation's Capital. As the Mother Church of Black Catholics, Saint Augustine Church continues in the tradition, in which it was founded, as a strong Black Catholic institution which witnesses in faith the Living God, His Son and the Holy Spirit. Saint Augustine will continue to be a center which recognizes, proclaims and preserves our Black Roman Catholic Heritage. It will expand and improve activities to advance the education of our children; to continue work in evangelization, liturgy, music, ecumenism and in efforts towards the achievement of a spiritual, economic and social development of all people.

Saint Augustine Parish traces its heritage to 1858 and the efforts of a group of dedicated emancipated Black Catholics. Faced with a society that was not yet willing to put off the last vestiges of slavery and a church that, at best, tolerated the presence of Black people in its congregation, these men and women founded a Catholic school and chapel on 15th Street under the patronage of Blessed Martin

de Porres. In what is perhaps a touch of historical irony, this school was operating 4 years before mandatory free public education of Black children became law in the Nation's Capital.

After operations were briefly interrupted by the Civil War, a new church was built and dedicated to Saint Augustine in 1876. From its beginning, Saint Augustine was the parish of Black Catholics in Washington, DC.

From its earliest years the school was staffed by the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the oldest religious order of Black women in the United States.

The parish continued to grow and flourish with a strong commitment to education and good liturgy. In February 1928, under the pastorship of Father Alonzo aids, the parish purchased the site of the Washington Home for Children at 1715 15th Street, NW., intending it to be the new home of Saint Augustine Parochial School. The school, a rectory and a convent were soon built and the construction of a new church begun. Most of the parish activities and operations were moved to the 15th and S Streets location, while the original church building at 15th and M Streets was maintained and used until 1946, when it was sold by the Archdiocese of Washington.

One of Saint Augustine's neighbors was a large Catholic parish, Saint Paul, whose original membership was primarily of Irish and German descent. With the rise of integration and shifting urban demographics, membership at Saint Paul dwindled steadily until 1961, when Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle decreed that the parishes of Saint Paul and Saint Augustine would be united.

In 1979, the Saints Paul and Augustine parish, through the parish pastoral council, staff and the Archbishop of Washington, made a decision to sell the Saint Augustine property at 15th and S Street. The old Saint Paul buildings at 15th and V Streets would be renovated to house the consolidated schools and other ministries of the parish.

On November 12, 1982, Archbishop James Hickey decreed that the parish of Saints Paul and Augustine, served by the Church at 15th and V Streets NW, would again be called the parish of Saint Augustine. With 2,000 registered members and 3,000 who call it their home church, Saint Augustine is now one of the largest parishes in Washington, DC.

Saint Augustine's proud history continues. In November 1989, Father John F. Payne, OSA, was ordained and named as the first African American associate pastor assigned to the Saint Augustine Parish. In January 1991, Father Russell L. Dillard was installed as the first African American pastor in Saint Augustine's history. Father Dillard was elevated to Reverend Monsignor in May 1991. Father Lowell Case, SSJ, was appointed Pastoral Administrator in February 2003. On February 5, 2005, Father Patrick Smith was installed as Pastor of Saint Augustine Parish.

Now in its 147th year, Saint Augustine Roman Catholic Church and its parish continue to grow, learn, and rejoice in God's love.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DONALD "ACE" HANNA

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Donald "Ace" Hanna, and to honor a life spent in service to his country, his community, and his family.

Donald Hanna, son of Elmer and Margaret Hanna was a U.S. army veteran and dedicated community member. He is survived by his wife, Trish and was a loving husband, brother, father, uncle, and friend to many in the community, with whom he shared his love, stories, guidance and care. Mr. Hanna enjoyed a close and unique bond with each of his eleven siblings, Francis, Ken, Gil, Marge, Diane, Jerry, Marilyn, Ralph, Karen, Ray and Elmer. He was a dedicated family man and spent much of his time with his wife and only daughter, Christine Zeh-Coyne, whom he will be affectionately remembered by.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering and honoring the life of Donald "Ace" Hanna, for his dedication to his country, family and friends.

#### CONGRATULATING WINONA, MINNESOTA ON BEING NAMED MINNESOTA'S HONORARY CAPITAL FOR A DAY

#### HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the City of Winona on being selected to serve as the Honorary Capital of Minnesota on May 16, 2008.

This year, Minnesota celebrates 150 years of statehood. Over 10,000 Minnesotans participated in selecting cities to serve as Capital for a Day throughout the week of May 11–18 to commemorate Minnesota's Sesquicentennial.

I am very pleased that Winona was chosen for this honor. A river city located in the beautiful bluff country along the Mississippi, Winona was settled in the early 1850s and throughout its early history served as a major port, shipping wheat from southern Minnesota and products from its thriving lumber industry.

Downtown Winona is rich in history, with over 100 buildings listed with the National Register of Historic Places that contribute to the culture of the downtown district.

A number of institutions of higher education also have their home in Winona, including St. Mary's University, Minnesota State College Southeast Technical, and Winona State University, the first public teacher training college located west of the Mississippi.

Today, from the heights of Sugarloaf to the Mississippi River, Winona is a vibrant community in which many local events honor its history.

I am pleased to join the State of Minnesota in congratulating Winona, Minnesota on this occasion. And I wish them continued growth and success for the next 150 years.

RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI SEN-  
ATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
NO. 667

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I submit into the RECORD Concurrent Resolution No. 667 adopted by the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives. The resolution urges the United States Congress to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the award of the jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America. Each day we delay approving this contract, we prevent the Air Force men and women from receiving the equipment necessary to ensure our national security. I encourage my colleagues to review this resolution.

DEBT CANCELLATION OP-ED

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, this op-ed, written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, appeared in the Baltimore Sun last week. Archbishop Tutu's words bring attention to our efforts to promote debt relief here in the House, such as passage of the Jubilee Act last month, and underscore the need for this bill to be passed into law.

[From the Baltimore Sun, May 7, 2008]

DEBT CANCELLATION A VICTORY FOR THE  
WORLD

(By Desmond Tutu)

Last month, the House of Representatives showed leadership in the fight against global poverty by passing the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation, which would extend lifesaving debt cancellation to more poor nations around the globe.

Too many of the world's poor children needlessly starve or go without education because too many impoverished nations—even after the laudable debt relief provided to date—are still funneling scarce resources to multilateral banks instead of paying for needs at home.

The world community has found crushing debt to be akin to a modern-day apartheid, and has responded with debt cancellation. Unjust debt leaves developing nations at the behest of the powerful. Shall we let the children of Africa and Asia die of curable disease, prevent them from going to school and limit their opportunities for meaningful work—all to payoff unjust and illegitimate loans made to their forefathers?

When I think of the crisis of international debt, I think of my African neighbor, Lesotho. Many of Lesotho's people cannot afford basic nourishment. The AIDS epidemic has plagued the nation, but needed medicine is out of reach for too many.

Lesotho's situation shows how debt and extreme poverty create a crisis for children. Children's wards in that nation's hospitals are filled with anxious mothers 24 hours a day, administering medicine and caring for their children as a nurse or doctor might do in my country of South Africa. They have no choice. Lesotho has only 6 pediatricians looking after its 800,000 children.

One-third of Lesotho's children are not in school. Meanwhile, Lesotho's debt repayments equal its entire education budget. Instead of investing in its people, health and development, Lesotho—a nation of 2 million people with external debt of \$647 million—sends debt payments to the developed world.

Millions of the world's poorest people suffer hunger and illness as desperately needed resources flow out of their countries in the form of debt payments. Yet many countries, like Lesotho, are not eligible for debt relief because current initiatives are not based on a country's level of poverty or need.

Much of this debt originates from loans made to corrupt and oppressive regimes that did not benefit the population. As a South African, I know firsthand the injustice of this situation as our country continues to repay money that was used to sustain the apartheid system and suppress the movement for racial justice. The Jubilee Act calls for an audit of the odious debts of countries such as South Africa so that the question of whether this money is truly "owed" can finally be addressed.

The movement to cancel debt is an ongoing moral campaign that joins religious leaders around the globe under the biblical principle of Jubilee, which says that everything belongs to God. My own Anglican communion has long supported debt relief, calling the continued burden of debt upon the poorest people of the world "a moral scandal."

Christian evangelical organizations, including Baptist World Alliance and the Salvation Army, have called on President Bush to support the Jubilee Act. Pope Benedict XVI, who made his first visit to the United States last month as Congress voted on the Jubilee Act, has called for debt cancellation for the poorest countries to be "continued and accelerated."

As the Senate now considers the Jubilee Act, it can do its part to help ensure that Africans and Asians are able to use their own resources for their own development. When success comes on expanded debt cancellation, as it did with an end to apartheid, this victory will not be ours alone but will belong to the whole world.

Desmond Tutu is archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa.

HONORING METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON YMCA

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's outstanding organizations and one of the Washington Metropolitan area's greatest gifts, specifically in the areas that I represent in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties, the Metropolitan Washington YMCA.

The mission of the YMCA is to "foster the spiritual, mental and physical development of individuals, families and communities according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and respect for all." To that end, Madam Speaker:

The YMCA provides child care, before- and after-school care, summer day camp, resident overnight camp, teen camps, youth and adult sports leagues, health and wellness programs, teen activities, community service programs, swim lessons, aquatic wellness programs, youth and family intervention programs, youth leadership clubs, senior health and wellness programs, senior social activities and much more.

Specifically Madam Speaker, I want to honor the YMCA and Camp Letts, a 219-acre retreat center founded in 1906 on the majestic Chesapeake Bay.

With children and campers from all over the country and counselors from all over the world, YMCA Camp Letts is truly a global community promoting tolerance, inclusion and diversity among all its visitors and staff members while providing a safe environment for children to make friends, participate in activities, and have a great time.

Madam Speaker, Camp Letts specializes in the field of recreation with an emphasis on youth development. The diverse staff representing over 20 countries model and teach the YMCA's core values of "Honesty, Caring, Respect and Responsibility."

It all began in 1906, when YMCA Boys Work Director Albert M. Chesley pitched camp on five acres along the South River, initiating what is now the oldest organized resident camp in the Washington area. The camp moved in 1922 to its present location, thanks to the generosity of John Cowen Letts, and today youngsters from the Baltimore-Washington area and beyond flock to this secure and exciting environment to kindle friendships and master new skills—all the while learning more about themselves, their peers and the world in which they live.

This 219-acre peninsula has miles of wooded trails for hiking, horseback riding, and nature discovery; vast green fields for a variety of team sports; tennis courts; an olympic-sized swimming pool, sailboats and small craft; certified nets, balls, racquets, hoops and targets for various sports; and much more to enjoy a broad selection of aquatic, land-based and waterfront activities.

In addition to providing numerous recreational activities for youth and families, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, under the steadfast leadership of Angie L. Reese-Hawkins, is the leading human service organization and the largest provider of child care in the greater Washington area, serving over 30,000 children each year.

Under Mrs. Reese-Hawkins's leadership, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is the 17th largest YMCA association in North America, with operating revenue of \$46 million, and 84,000 individual and family members in a service area of 4 million people.

Today, the Metropolitan Washington YMCA has 17 branches and program centers that touch close to 250,000 lives a year in the District of Columbia, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. Almost 3,400 volunteers—an increase of 10 percent over 2005—served the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington in 2006.

During 2006 the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington raised \$1.1 million in its annual sustaining Building Bridges Campaign and gave out over \$2.13 million in financial assistance to more than 12,500 families and individuals, enabling them to participate in child care, after-school and camp programs, membership, wellness, therapeutic and senior services throughout the metropolitan area.

Madam Speaker, how lucky we are to have the YMCA and its committed staff working to improve opportunities for all children, but particularly those in the Metropolitan Washington area.



INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THAT THERE IS A CRITICAL  
NEED TO INCREASE RESEARCH,  
AWARENESS, AND EDUCATION  
ABOUT CEREBRAL CAVERNOUS  
MALFORMATIONS

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, medical science has made great strides in unlocking the mystery of illnesses that have plagued humanity for centuries. Medical breakthroughs have helped control and eliminate diseases that once threatened the life and health of millions. Yet for all our progress, we still face threats that we do not understand and therefore cannot stop.

One of the lesser known—but no less devastating—diseases is Cerebral Cavernous Malformation, also known as CCM, or Cavernous Angiomas. CCM's are caused by abnormal blood vessels that form clusters, known as angiomas, in the brain or spinal cord. If the angiomas bleed or press up against structures in the central nervous system, they can cause seizures, neurological deficits, hemorrhages, or headaches.

In the general population, 1 in approximately 200 people has a cavernous angioma and about one-third of these affected individuals become symptomatic at some point in their lives. In some Hispanic families, however, the rate of prevalence is significantly higher. It is what is known as an autosomal dominant disease, which means that each child of an affected parent has a 50 percent chance of inheriting it.

And Madam Speaker, tragically, for generations of these Hispanic families, that is exactly what has happened throughout the country, and especially in New Mexico. In New Mexico, this genetic mutation has been traced back to the original Spanish settlers of the 1580's and has now spread down and across at least 17 generations, resulting in what could be tens of thousands of cases of the illness in the state. In fact, New Mexico has the highest population density of this illness in the world.

Unfortunately, and in some cases tragically, many of the carriers of the gene and even the disease are unaware. To make matters worse, New Mexico, and the nation, face a shortage of physicians who are familiar with this illness. This makes it dangerously difficult to receive timely diagnosis and appropriate care and puts potentially thousands of individuals at risk of a stroke, seizures, or even sudden death.

One New Mexico resident, Joyce Gonzales, was diagnosed with an angioma in her cervical spinal cord and had it surgically removed three years ago. But this success story followed 15 years of pain and misdiagnosis. Tragically, Mrs. Gonzales's 9-year-old second cousin was not as fortunate, recently suffering a cerebral hemorrhagic death caused by CCM.

Madam Speaker, much of the misdiagnosis of CCM, the inexact figures, and lack of knowledge in the medical community is attributable to a lack of research of the disease. NIH funds only eight projects on CCM. This, despite recent indications that staff at the Na-

tional Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke believes CCM to be a "paradigm illness," meaning research findings on CCM could apply to other illnesses that have similar characteristics.

It is clear, Madam Speaker, that more education, awareness, and research is necessary on this disease. That is why I am introducing this resolution today to express the sense of the House of Representatives that there is a critical need to do exactly that; expand education, awareness and research of CCM. This is only a preliminary step in the fight against this disease. I believe a Center of Excellence is needed to provide the highest quality medical and surgical care for families with CCM. An expansion of the existing DNA/Tissue and Clinical Database is also needed. The current database is underfunded, which means that they cannot accept all the samples that are offered. I will be working to establish both of those.

In the meantime, Joyce Gonzales, Dr. Leslie Morrison of the University of New Mexico, and Connie Lee, the President of the Angioma Alliance, are on the forefront of the fight against CCM. It is my honor to join them in this fight by introducing this resolution today and I urge my colleagues to help raise awareness of this devastating disease. There is too much at stake to ignore it.

TRIBUTE TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH  
BIRTHDAY OF THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

**HON. BILL SALI**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, the 60th birthday of the State of Israel is a time of joyous celebration for all who honor hope, dignity and liberty.

Since even before the First World War, Jewish people from all over the globe have traveled back to their historic homeland. The hope of a secure Jewish homeland was a dream worked for by so many for so long. From dispersion and oppression to bitter pogroms and on through the murderous horror of the Holocaust, the Jewish people have endured more than can be put into words.

Still, through it all, they have persisted and persevered, maintaining their identity, traditions and faith.

On that great day some 60 years ago, the State of Israel declared its independence. Only eleven minutes after Israel did so, President Harry Truman declared America's recognition of the new Jewish State. Since this time, all the leaders of the United States have expressed their support for the State of Israel, and the people of both countries have continually nurtured, promoted and developed their shared values and interests.

President Bush recently made a public statement which summarizes my own views on Israel: "The United States will never abandon its commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish state and homeland for the Jewish people."

I am an uncompromising advocate for Israel's security and freedom. Anything which infringes upon the rights and welfare of the State of Israel is not in America's interests and

must never be tolerated. I have served and will continue to serve proudly on the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus. I have co-sponsored legislation to protect this great nation through condemning ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on innocent Israel civilians, anti-Semitic rhetoric and the glorification of terrorism.

Support for Israel must remain central to American foreign policy. This support is especially essential given the threats Israel continues to face. The brutal terrorist organization Hamas is an ongoing threat to Israel's well-being. Iran continues to shake its potential nuclear sword against Israel, and Al-Qaeda fights for a foothold in Pakistan in order to spread its viral cruelty all the way to Jerusalem. Syria proudly maintains its hostility to the Jewish State, seeming only to be waiting for an opportune moment to pounce.

We must always help Israel keep a well-armed guard up. To do less would be to breach our national interest and our national honor.

For 60 years, the Israelis have strained and endured in their desert home, overcoming in several major wars, endless attacks and terrorism. Amazingly, out of all of this turmoil, pain, and violence, a home has bloomed out of the Middle Eastern sands for these wonderful individuals who only seek a home for themselves and their families.

Sixty years is an anniversary well worth celebrating. While the pain of the past cannot be eradicated, nor can the courage, fortitude and hope of a people who have endured and triumphed, again and again.

May we all join in the prayer of the 122nd Psalm:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
They that love thee shall prosper.

Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will say now, peace be within thee.

For the sake of the House of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

I trust that all my colleagues will join me in saying "amen" to this prayer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY-  
FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACT

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I have tried to come up with legislation that would give us more than 24 hours in a day—but I have not figured out how to do that. So for the time being, I am introducing the Family-Friendly Workplace Act that aims to give working people the opportunity to spend more time with their families.

Time is one of our most precious resources. We all want more of it and yet we only have 24 hours in a day. That means we have to figure out how to work a full day, run errands, pack lunches, make dinner and spend quality time with our kids, spouse, or elderly parent.

One of the biggest struggles parents face is how to balance work and family. Being a new mom, I struggle with it every day. This bill will give people more flexibility so you can put in the time you need to get the job done, but also make sure you can make the school play, stay home with a sick child or care for an elderly parent.

The perception is that working mothers and parents have a greater desire for workplace flexibility than other workers; the reality is that men and women, parents and non-parents, young and older workers alike place a high priority on increased flexibility at work. We all want more time.

A study by the Employment Family Foundation found that 75 percent of workers prefer time off instead of overtime and 81 percent of women prefer to have that benefit.

For many employers, flexible work arrangements are necessary to attract and retain quality employees. In return for offering employees alternative work arrangements and greater flexibility in work schedules, employers gain a workforce that is more productive, committed and focused. For example an insurance company in my home State of Washington saw per-employee revenue increase 70 percent over 5 years after implementing flexible work options.

In talking with Wayne Williams who runs Telect in Spokane, Washington, he told me that they are doing more to give their employees greater flexibility including personal days and technology to give them the flexibility to work from home.

This isn't just a workforce issue, it is also a community and family issue.

The bill I am introducing would allow private sector employers to offer their employees additional time off in lieu of overtime pay. One of the greatest obstacles to flexibility in the workplace is the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act (known as the "FLSA"), which governs the work schedules and pay of millions of hourly workers. While the law may have been a good fit for the workforce of 70 years ago, it is simply not relevant to the needs of modern families.

Our labor force isn't what it used to be. Between 1950 and 2000, the labor force participation rate of women between 25 and 55 years of age more than doubled. Today, more than 75 percent of these women are in the labor market. Less than 12 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 were in the labor force in 1950. Today, more than 60 percent work outside the home.

The FLSA fails to address the needs and preferences of employees in the area of flexible work schedules. Although salaried employees typically have greater flexibility in their day-to-day schedules, hourly employees are much more restricted—due in large part to the outdated FLSA—in their ability to gain greater flexibility in their work schedules.

The goal of the Family-Friendly Workplace Act is simple: to reconcile the overtime requirements under the FLSA with employee demands for increased workplace flexibility. Specifically, the bill would give private sector employers the option of allowing their employees to voluntarily choose paid compensatory time off (known as "comp time") in lieu of overtime pay. Since 1985, public sector employees have been able to bank comp time hours in order to have additional time off for vacation or other family needs. There is no justification for denying private sector employees an option under the FLSA which, by most accounts, has been successful and immensely popular with public sector hourly employees for over 20 years.

To be clear, the Family-Friendly Workplace Act would not change the employer's obligation under the FLSA to pay overtime at the

rate of one-and-one-halftimes an employee's regular rate of pay for any hours worked over 40 in a seven-day period. The bill would simply allow overtime compensation to be given—at the employee's request—as paid comp time off, at the rate of one-and-one-half hours of comp time for each hour of overtime worked, provided the employee and the employer agree on that form of overtime compensation. The bill contains numerous protections to ensure that the choice and use of comp time is a decision made by the employee.

Since we can't do anything about adding more hours to the day, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting something that gives us a little more flexibility in how we spend that time—the Family-Friendly Workplace Act. We need to respond to the growing needs of workers who want to better integrate work and family. Let's allow working women and men to decide for themselves whether paid time off or extra pay best fits their needs and that of their families.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF DANNY FEDERICI

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life long achievements of musician Danny Federici, long-time organ and accordion player for the E Street Band, a band that has become a staple of modern day American culture. Over his four-decade long career, Mr. Federici's signature style of playing has affected and inspired the lives of innumerable musicians and fans around the world.

Born in Flemington, New Jersey, Danny Federici began teaching himself how to play the accordion at the age of seven. His talents quickly earned him many local radio gigs, where he performed classical and polka music. A truly natural musician, it was he and original E Street Band drummer Vini Lopez, who invited Bruce Springsteen to join their band as they began conquering the music scene on the colorful boardwalk of Asbury Park, New Jersey. Often introduced by Springsteen as "Phantom Dan", he spent forty years lending his spontaneous and soulful playing to the countless performances of the E Street Band. Mr. Federici was one of the pillars of their signature sound and his playing evoked the boardwalk at Asbury Park, where he and his fellow band mates spent their childhood together. His accordion playing is most memorable in E Street Band hits such as "Fourth of July" and "Asbury Park".

During the time he spent away from the E Street Band, he recorded two solo albums, both jazz instrumentals. He had an unbreakable dedication to his music and his band mates but even more so to his wife Maya, and his three children, Jason, Harley and Madison. During his battle with Melanoma, he set up the Danny Federici Melanoma Fund, in the hopes that he could help others who were facing the same challenges that he was. His talents will forever be remembered by his family, friends, fans and band mates. In the words of Bruce Springsteen, "Those you are with, in the presence of miracles, you never forget. Life does not does separate you. Death does not sepa-

rate you. Those you are with who create miracles for you, like Danny did for me every night."

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Danny Federici, whose inspiration and musical genius will continue to touch the lives of generations to come.

#### FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS and the Committee for their hard work. They have presented a thoughtful and creative proposal.

Housing is a very complex issue—it is also a very emotional one. We aren't just talking about abstract concepts, we are talking about a person's home. We're talking about real people with a real problem.

Prior to Congress I was a Realtor for over 20 years. I have worked with many families to help them realize their dream of home ownership. I have also served as chairman of the Virginia Housing Study Commission. Housing is an important issue for me and something I feel very strongly about.

I have seen good markets and bad. I have witnessed many changes to the mortgage market. I have struggled with how to define and protect against predatory lending practices. I have seen interest rates and loan products that seemed too good to be true—unfortunately, we have seen that in fact, many were too good to be true. I rise today to share my observations and concerns about the bill before us.

There are many components of this bill which I think are excellent and fully support. First Federal Housing Administration modernization is long overdue. FHA must be streamlined and made more efficient. Government Sponsored Enterprise regulatory reform would also help stabilize the housing market. I support an amendment to be offered today that will create a first time home buyer tax credit for low- to mid-income buyers. This would increase the number of buyers in the market—increasing demand now for an oversupply of homes. The bill also increases funding for foreclosure counselors and financial education. I also appreciate the additional funding for law enforcement to prevent mortgage fraud, and that Department of Veterans' Affairs loan limits are raised, and the enhanced appraisal standards and appraisal independence.

These are all well thought out, very important reforms that will help American families and the marketplace.

However, my concerns with today's package include the establishment of a new affordable housing fund to create new grants that can be directed to organizations that work specifically on housing issues. The bill does contain a provision that will prohibit the use of these grant funds for political activities, the fact is that many of the possible recipients engage in partisan political activities and therefore should

not receive funding to offset their costs. It is important to remember that money is fungible, so that if a group cannot use these grants specifically for political activities, it could certainly have more money freed up for political activities because of the injection of new grants funding.

I am also concerned about a \$300 billion federal loan guarantee. There are two important issues with this provision that I foresee. One, a lender with troubled loans could contact those homeowners and offer a federally backed loan—and refinance at a loss but now he has moved that loan from a potential total loss to 85 percent current value—and will be guaranteed by federal government should it foreclose. He now has no reason to work with that borrower should the borrower still face foreclosure. Two, this program has a huge impact on neighborhoods. Consider neighbor A who bought at the height of the market. This person struggles month to month but manages to pay his mortgage on time. Neighbor B and their lender agree to take advantage of the new program and negotiates their mortgage to 85 percent current value. Not only is fairness between the two neighbors and issue, but the new reduction in value can have a huge impact on the value of surrounding properties.

While I understand this is a voluntary program. My question is why can we not develop incentives for the private sector to do this and not obligate the American taxpayers with \$300B in loan guarantees?

Furthermore, there are several things already in the works. FHA secure is a new FHA product allowing homeowners to refinance their resetting Adjustable Rate Mortgages. So far, there are 3 times the refinances this year as in previous years. HOPE NOW is an alliance between counselors, services, investors that is working to prevent foreclosure through outreach to delinquent borrowers. The program provides counseling and loan work outs based on buyers' ability to pay. From July 07 through March 08 1.4m avoided foreclosures through these efforts. Also, Fannie Mae is currently working on a streamlined short sale program to allow the sale of property that is over-mortgaged.

Both the administration and the private sector need to do a much better job at explaining what is currently available. Neither has done a good job of explaining to the public these available options. As such, I can understand Chairman FRANK's frustration and desire to take action.

Again I thank the committee for their work and I would encourage us to institute the reforms in this package that I highlighted. However, I firmly believe we should take caution and allow ongoing efforts to work before we decide to go down the path of obligating American taxpayers for \$300B in loan guarantees.

#### TRIBUTE TO NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples High School Softball Team for winning this year's Class 4A Florida State Championship last week.

Thanks to the pitching of sophomore Jaclyn Traina, who had 10 strikeouts in seven innings, and the hitting of senior Ashley Pinkerton, who had a batting average over .400 for the season, the Golden Eagles beat Pembroke Pines 5–2 and cinched their 12th overall state championship title.

With fierce determination and spirit, the Golden Eagles Softball Team worked together to defeat the No. 1 ranked school in the country.

Any of us who have played competitive sports understands the valuable lessons of hard work, teamwork and commitment. These memories and lessons will stay with these players for the rest of their lives and are made all the sweeter by their incredible win.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Naples High School Softball Team, their coaches, students and fans. We couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments this season.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA TAYLOR

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara "BT" Taylor of Culpeper, Virginia on the occasion of her upcoming retirement from my Congressional staff and to thank her for her many years of service to the 7th Congressional District of Virginia.

BT is an active member of the Culpeper community, and as Outreach Director in my Culpeper District Office, she provides outstanding service to the citizens of the 7th District. She is a respected voice in the community with a true dedication to public service. BT plays an important role in developing relationships with constituents, local elected officials, businesses, schools, organizations, and community leaders. I know they will all miss her steady counsel and passionate advocacy.

As Members of Congress, we come to Washington with a passion for helping the people we represent. I can assure you that I am greatly aided in accomplishing that goal due to the tireless work and counsel of Barbara Taylor.

BT's passion and zeal for this country and for our Commonwealth is refreshing and unwavering. We would all do well to emulate her patriotic fervor and her passion for serving those around her.

While I will surely miss having BT as part of our official team, I am comforted in knowing that she will still be serving her community in many other ways. I am greatly privileged to have worked with BT over the years, but most importantly, I am honored to call her a friend.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me and my family in wishing BT, Charlie and the entire Taylor family all the best and in thanking BT for her contributions to the people of the Seventh District of Virginia.

#### HONORING DAVEY HUNT

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Davey Hunt, the 2008 Heard County High School STAR student.

In Georgia, Madam Speaker, the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition program honors the top senior in each of the State's 400 high schools and a teacher chosen by that student.

For Davey, the STAR student award squeezes in one more line to a resume already teeming with superlatives.

"Davey is simply the most brilliant student I have ever had the honor to teach," said Paul Mixon, the Heard County High educator whom Davey named as STAR Teacher. "His academic performance and mastery of complex material highlights an intellect that is both creative and constantly expanding. Davey demands that his teachers go beyond the basic concept of each course, as he quickly becomes an expert in each subject. Unlike so many of his generation, Davey is excited about learning."

Academic excellence and intellectual curiosity came early to Davey. After fifth grade, he attended Junior University summer camp where he had to build a bridge out of toothpicks. In what appears to be one of his few life lessons in disappointment, Davey's bridge didn't win the competition for holding the most weight without breaking. Nevertheless, a long-held fascination with design and construction took root.

Davey graduated over the years from toothpick engineering to aeronautical engineering, which he will study at the Nation's preeminent engineering school, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to winning the STAR student award, Davey will reign as the valedictorian of Heard County's Class of 2008 and he received the Georgia Certificate of Merit, which goes to the State's best and brightest high school students.

Davey's record of academic excellence could stand alone, but his record shows him to be much more than a one-dimensional whiz kid. He served as editor of his school newspaper, *The Warcry*, won the 2007 Most Valuable Player Award for the track team, and made the 2007 All-Region Football Team and the 2007 All-State Academic Football Team.

Of course, a good high school experience isn't all work. He earned the friendship of his peers not with his good grades and athletic prowess, but with what his teacher Paul Mixon called his "warmth and wit." Those qualities led his classmates to tap him for homecoming king and Mr. Heard High.

Madam Speaker, the future of our Nation rests on the shoulders of today's young leaders. I'm proud that one of those young leaders, Davey Hunt, hails from Georgia's 3rd Congressional District. I pay tribute today to his outstanding record of achievements and wish him continued success as he begins the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT ISAAC  
PALOMAREZ

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sergeant Isaac Palomarez.

Mr. Palomarez served in the United States Army as a Sergeant and was assigned to the A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Mr. Palomarez courageously died in combat May 9, 2008 in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I believe his service and commitment to our country most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Isaac Palomarez was born April 14, 1982 and graduated from Loveland High School in 2001. Mr. Palomarez joined the Army in 2004, following in his father Candido's footsteps, who served in the Army in the 1960's.

Palomarez is survived by his parents Candido and Elma Palomarez and will be remembered as a loving son and loyal friend to many.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Palomarez's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Isaac Palomarez.

HONORING THE DEEDS OF SER-  
GEANT MIGUEL HINOJOSA AND  
MICHAELA SULLIVAN

**HON. JERRY MCNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to honor U.S. Marine Sergeant Miguel Hinojosa and 15-year-old Michaela Sullivan, both of Brentwood, California.

Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan are an example to us all because they acted quickly to save a young child's life. They do not view their deeds as heroic, which is exactly why we need to recognize their selflessness.

On a hot day last month, Ms. Sullivan noticed that a 5-year-old friend and neighbor, who was swimming at their apartment complex, was struggling to stay afloat in the deep water and she rushed into the pool to pull the young girl out.

When Sergeant Hinojosa saw the unconscious child who had just been pulled out of a swimming pool, his instincts took over, and he immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest compressions. By the time an oxygen tank arrived on the scene, the girl was breathing.

Thanks to the alertness and quick actions of the high school sophomore and the well-trained 13-year Marine veteran, a young child's life was saved. Had it not been for the quick thinking of Sergeant Hinojosa and Ms. Sullivan, a parent's worst nightmare might have come true for one Brentwood family.

These two citizens have demonstrated what it means to be a true American hero, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

RECOGNIZING GRACE THORPE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Grace Thorpe, an environmental justice activist who fought to protect the Native American community who passed away on April 1, 2008 at the Claremore Veterans Center.

Ms. Thorpe dedicated herself to the improvement of health and the environment for the Native American community. As a result of her efforts to prevent the Sac and Fox leaders from accepting grants for storage of nuclear waste in nation territory, many Native American tribes were able to establish Nuclear Free Zones. Ms. Thorpe later served as the Director for the National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans, as well as on the advisory council for Native American affairs at Greenpeace. She authored "Our Homes Are Not Dumps: Creating Nuclear Free Zones" and brought awareness about the environmental injustices in the Native American community.

Ms. Thorpe was also a dedicated public servant. She served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, and was awarded a Bronze star for her performance in the battle of New Guinea. She further served as a Tribal District Court Judge and was a Congressional Liaison to the American Indian Policy Review Commission in the U.S. House of Representatives. She earned her Bachelors degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, obtained a paralegal degree from the Antioch School of Law while in Washington, DC, and was an Urban Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I applaud Grace Thorpe's achievements and important contributions in bringing environmental justice and awareness to the Native American community. These contributions will not be forgotten.

HONORING CHIEF FRANCISCO  
ORTIZ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of our community and a dear friend as he retires after 30 years of dedicated service to the New Haven Police Department—Chief Francisco Ortiz. Chief Ortiz, or Cisco as he is affectionately known throughout the community, has dedicated a lifetime to public service and his presence at the department will most certainly be missed.

In a career that has spanned over four decades, Cisco has demonstrated what can only be described as an unparalleled commitment to public service and law enforcement. Joining the New Haven Police Department as a patrolman in 1978, he quickly rose through the ranks and gained invaluable experience in every major unit within the Department. Cisco

went on to earn a master's degree in law enforcement from the University of New Haven and is a proud graduate of the 170th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in Quantico. He was invited to attend the prestigious Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University and attended the inaugural class of the Management Training Institute, a joint initiative between Yale University and the City of New Haven.

A long time advocate of the community policing philosophy, Cisco is also a senior fellow and one of the founders of the Yale Child Study Center's Child Development/Community Policing Program—a program designed to provide police personnel with the special psychological expertise which is needed when dealing with children and families who are witness to, or victims of, violent crime. I have had the privilege of working directly with Cisco on this program and today it stands as a national model for communities across the country.

Cisco's involvement with the community goes far beyond his professional contributions. He also serves on a number of local civic and service organizations including Easter Seals/Goodwill, the Connecticut Puerto Rican Parade Committee, the Connecticut Special Olympics, and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Cisco has also been an invaluable resource to myself and my staff. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to extend a special note of thanks to him for his participation as a member of the recommendation panel for the Maria Baez Perez Scholarships—a program which I sponsor in memory of one of my former staff members who we lost only a few years ago.

With all of his experience in the Department and in the community, it was no surprise when Cisco was named Chief in 2003—becoming the first Latino in Connecticut to attain the highest rank in a law enforcement agency. It was a very proud day for him, his family, and our community. I have no doubt that Cisco will continue to be involved in our community. His desire and commitment to making New Haven a better place to live, work, and grow will not fade with his departure from the department. Every community should be so fortunate.

Today, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his retirement, I am so pleased to extend my very best wishes to Chief Francisco Ortiz, his wife, Myra, his children, Jennifer, Francisco, and Mariah, as well as his granddaughter Mariah, for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO FLINT CENTRAL HIGH  
SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
HONOREES

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2008 Flint Central High School Alumni Association honorees. The eighth honorees will be recognized at a dinner to be held on May 15 in Flint, Michigan. This year the Alumni Association is honoring Henry Hatter, Lynn Chandnois, Dr. Catrise Austin, Lawrence R. Gustin, Judge Robert E. Weiss, Dean Ludwig, James Beaubien and posthumously Gracie Field.

The distinguished alumni are: Henry Hatter is a member of the class of 1954. Henry worked for Buick Motor Division for 38 years, responsible for the plant-wide waste water environmental program. Active in the Republican Party, Henry served in the Electoral College and will be a 2008 Alternate Delegate at the National Republican Convention.

Lynn Chandnois is a member of the class of 1944. He played professional football for the Pittsburgh Steelers and was named "NFL Player of the Year" by the Washington Touchdown Club. He has been given the title of "The Greatest Football Player Flint Ever Produced."

Dr. Catrise Austin graduated from Central High School in 1988. Through her medical practice, VIP SMILES, she specializes in treating entertainers and persons in the public eye. She has been named as one of America's top dentists by Consumers Research Council of America.

Lawrence R. Gustin graduated in 1955. Larry worked for the Flint Journal for 23 years. He published three award winning books and created the Flint Journal Picture History of Flint. During his time working for Buick public relations he started the magazine, "Inside Buick."

Judge Robert E. Weiss is a member of the class of 1956. Judge Weiss served as Special Litigation Counsel in the Watergate Civil Proceedings. He went on to be elected as Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney from 1979 to 1993. He was a Genesee County Probate Judge in the Family Division when he was appointed the Chief Judge in 2006.

The distinguished educators are: Dean Ludwig was Flint Central High School's principal from 1984 to 1995. He began his career at Flint Central High School teaching Social Studies. He was Assistant Principal at Flint Central High School before taking the helm at Whittier Junior High School. He assumed the position of Principal at Flint Central in 1984.

Jim Beaubien began his career with the Flint Schools in 1963. He served as the Flint Central Community School Director for many years, organizing after school activities for students and the community at large. He served as the school's Principal from 1998 to 2002.

Gracie Field is being honored posthumously. She was the school's English Literature teacher for approximately 50 years. She sponsored the English Club, the Shakespeare Club and was a troop leader for the Boy Scouts. She devoted her life to bringing the words of great English writers to her students.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these distinguished alumni and educators. May their lives and dedication be an inspiration to the current and future students of Flint Central High School.

IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF  
GEORGE AND ANN MARIE LAZAR  
IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH  
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of George and

Ann Marie Lazar, as they celebrate fifty years of devotion to each other, to their family and many close friends. Their unbreakable union represents a deep and enduring love, not only for each other, but also for their children, grandchildren and for their community.

George Lazar and Ann Marie Seaman wed on May 10, 1958 at St. Bonafice Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Shortly after their wedding, they moved to Parma, where they have grown together, raised a family and become an integral part of the community. They have lived on the same street in Parma since their move from Cleveland; raising, guiding and nurturing their three children: Georgeanne, George, and Suzanne. They are the proud grandparents of seven talented and beautiful grandchildren; Sean, Christopher, Alex, Emily, Vincent, Derek, and Valerie, to whom they provide much comfort and love.

Throughout their lives together, both George and Ann Marie have dedicated their time and talents within the community that they have been a part of for so long. George, a veteran of the Korean War, is a long-standing member of the Honor Guard with American Legion Post 703. Ann Marie is also an active member of the same Post and served as a precinct committee member for the Democratic Party in Parma. Their dedication to helping others is evidenced at Holy Family Church where George sings in the choir and where Anne Marie volunteers in several different capacities. Anne Marie also volunteers for Meals on Wheels in Parma. Their legacy will be one of dedication to their family, to their church, and to their community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of George and Ann Marie Lazar, as they celebrate this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. May their commitment to each other, their family and their community continue to inspire us to follow our dreams, to give back to our community, and to hold family closest in our hearts.

PRAISING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE ENLOE HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

**HON. BRAD MILLER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented high school choir in my district, Enloe High School Chorus of Raleigh, NC, which was chosen to perform at New York City's world-renowned Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The Enloe High School Chorus was selected out of dozens of high school choruses from across the country to perform in this concert. The event featured 200 students from four States, and was the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who has been working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. I am thrilled that these Enloe High School students have been given such a remarkable opportunity to showcase their talent.

Led by Ann Johnson-Huff, the Enloe High School Singers is made up of the Chamber

Choir and the Advanced Women's Ensemble, two of the five choirs of the William G. Enloe High School Choral Department. The Chamber Choir and the Advanced Women's Ensemble study a wide array of repertoire and perform at numerous local and national events throughout the school year. Past tours included performances at the Olympics in Barcelona, the Vatican, Carnegie Hall, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In 2006, the Chamber Choir and Advanced Women's Ensemble were chosen to perform for a special event at the North Carolina Music Educators' Association Conference. Both ensembles also represented the State of North Carolina at the Founding of Jamestown Settlement Celebration in May of 2007, featuring guest speakers Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and President George W. Bush.

I am privileged to have in my district one of the four schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival. I commend these students and their leaders for their accomplishment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on May 6, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 246; rollcall 248; rollcall 249; rollcall 250; rollcall 251; rollcall 252; rollcall 253; rollcall 254; rollcall 256; rollcall 257; rollcall 258; rollcall 259; rollcall 263; rollcall 264; rollcall 265; and rollcall 266.

I would have voted "nay" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 245; rollcall 247; rollcall 255; rollcall 260; rollcall 261; and rollcall 262.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CREATING  
OPPORTUNITIES TO MOTIVATE  
MASS-TRANSIT UTILIZATION TO  
ENCOURAGE RIDERSHIP (COM-  
MUTER) ACT OF 2008, H.R. 6030

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, as gas prices continue to rise, the most immediate and cost-effective way to offer relief to consumers is to provide incentives for mass transit use. According to a study published by the American Public Transportation Association, public transportation use in the U.S. saves an annual 1.4 billion gallons of gasoline. This represents almost 4 million gallons of gas per day. Factoring in the current average gasoline price in Chicagoland of \$3.95, public transit in the region saves consumers more than \$1 billion in gas costs in my area alone.

Current law allows businesses, governments, non-profits and employees to purchase tax-free transit benefits. However, there is no tax incentive for employers to directly subsidize their workers' transportation costs. The Creating Opportunities to Motivate Mass-transit Utilization To Encourage Ridership (COMMUTER) Act of 2008 offers employers a 50

percent tax credit for all transit benefits provided to employees, up to \$115 per employee per month. Current law allows businesses, governments, non-profits and employees to purchase tax-free transit benefits. Under the COMMUTER Act, employees could receive up to \$1,380 in free mass transit funds each year, with the employer receiving \$690 in tax credits per employee. This legislation is supported by the American Public Transit Association and all of Chicagoland's public transportation service boards—the Regional Transportation Authority, the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra and Pace.

Forbes recently estimated the average commuter's gasoline cost in the Chicago metro area to be \$6.23 per day. Should businesses take advantage of the tax incentive and provide transit benefits, they would save each of their participating employees an average of roughly \$1,620 per year. As family budgets continue to tighten, an extra \$1,600 to \$3,200 could help ease the burdens of health care and education or help bolster retirement savings.

A new study by BusinessWeek Research Services estimates that 53 percent of employees in Chicago, San Francisco and New York would take public transportation if their employer provided access to current transit benefits. Out of the respondents, 60 percent said their company doesn't provide tax-free commuter benefits.

I believe we must also work to provide long-term solutions to our energy crisis, such as passing long-term tax incentives for research and development of renewable and alternative energy, fuels and vehicles; eliminating the so-called boutique fuels and offering the nation one clean burning fuel; financing energy development projects in China, central Asia and the Gulf to meet Chinese energy needs apart from oil; and increasing fuel economy standards.

But Americans cannot wait ten, twenty or thirty years for the entire restructuring of our energy policy—they need relief at the pumps now. I am proud to offer the COMMUTER Act with Representatives JUDY BIGGERT (R-IL) and PETER ROSKAM (R-IL) and CHRIS SHAYS (R-CT) to help provide that immediate relief. I hope Congress will act swiftly and in a bipartisan manner to pass this important legislation.

#### REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES IKEDA

#### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor and praise one of America's truly fine teachers, James (Jimmy) Ikeda. Mr. Ikeda teaches Biotechnology at San Mateo High School and today was awarded one of six Amgen Awards for Science Teaching Excellence.

Mr. Ikeda has dedicated himself to his students and has led the San Mateo Biotechnology Career Pathway since 2003. Under his leadership, the program has become one of the finest in the Nation. Educators from across the country visit Jimmy's program with hopes of duplicating his success in their communities.

Jimmy Ikeda has a wonderful rapport with students, teachers and parents alike. His enthusiasm for science is infectious and his patience with the young people in his program inspires confidence and encourages them to take on further academic challenges.

The Amgen Award comes with a \$5000 grant for Mr. Ikeda, plus an additional \$5000 for San Mateo High School to use for the expansion of their science program, additional science resources, or professional development of science teachers.

Madam Speaker, our country has a tremendous need for more scientists. Teachers like Jimmy Ikeda are a valuable national resource. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude and our highest hopes for his continued success.

#### HONORING DR. NGUYEN QUOC QUAN

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, an American citizen who was arrested and detained by the Government of Vietnam on November 17, 2007 while preparing to distribute pro-democracy leaflets. Earlier today, Dr. Nguyen and two others were convicted in a Vietnamese court under the catchall charge of "terrorism" in a trial lasting less than 6 hours. Dr. Nguyen has received a sentence of 6 months time served and will be allowed to return to the United States within 4 days.

I commend Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan for his courage and dedication to the peaceful cause of spreading democracy to Vietnam, a country in which the government believes that all those who dare to peacefully speak out against it deserve to be classified as "terrorists." His courage and dedication should be an inspiration to others pursuing the same peaceful goals.

#### CONGRATULATING THE STATE CHAMPION ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL UIL TEAM

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Argyle High School UIL Team for winning the overall state championship among 3A schools in Texas. In addition to the great team effort put forth by Argyle High School, there were many outstanding individual scores that deserve equal recognition.

The science team took first place while the calculator team finished second overall. Nick Strelke, Erik Katzen, and Thomas Quintana placed second, fourth, and fifth, respectively, in math, while the math team won first place overall. The number sense team also took top honors, with individuals Quintana in first place and Strelke in second. Robbie Ehlers placed second in calculator, and Strelke took fifth. David Graf came in first in biology and third in science, and Kristen Gill took third in computer

applications. Quintana rounded out the team's brilliant showing with a second place finish in both the science competition and the chemistry and physics event.

Argyle High School is well known for having a strong showing in UIL academic competition. This is the second time in three years that Argyle High School has triumphed in its quest for the Texas 3A state championship. Additionally, Argyle High School sent nine students with their team this year, the most they have ever sent to the UIL state academic competition. Before the state competition, Argyle High School placed first overall at both their district and regional meets.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today and commend these students—their commitment to education and competition is apparent. I would also like to thank Argyle High School's teachers and UIL coaches for ensuring that these students have every resource possible to succeed. I am proud to represent these students and teachers in the 26th District of Texas.

#### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on May 21, 1881, the American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. Ms. Barton was a former schoolteacher, clerk in the U.S. Patent Office, and hero during the Civil War where she was nicknamed the "Angel of the Battlefield" for her service to wounded troops.

After successfully lobbying Congress to join and found the American chapter of the International Red Cross and to sign the Geneva Convention, Barton became the organization's first President. She led the American Red Cross for 23 years.

Just over three months after its founding, the Red Cross was called into action. The first major disaster relief operation occurred on August 22, 1881, when the American Red Cross responded to devastation caused by major forest fires in Michigan.

On June 6, 1900, the American Red Cross was given a Congressional charter that mandated the organization to fulfill the provisions of the Geneva Convention, by rendering aid to those wounded during war, providing communication between family members and members of the U.S. military, and administering relief to those affected by disasters during peacetime. The charter also reserves the Red Cross emblem for use only by the Red Cross.

Even though the organization has a Congressional mandate, it is not a federally funded organization. It is a non-profit, charitable organization that receives its funding from public donations.

Today, the American Red Cross is more important than ever in helping Americans who are in need of aid and who are affected by disasters. The organization has six major areas of work that it focuses on today: Disaster relief, community services that assist the needy, communications services and comfort for military members and their family members, collection processing and distribution of blood and blood products, educational programs on health and safety, and international relief and development programs.



Each year, more than a million volunteers and 30,000 Red Cross employees mobilize relief efforts to the victims of more than 63,000 disasters nationwide through a network of more than 700 chapters.

One of the most important and successful roles of the Red Cross has been the organization's role as the primary supplier of lifesaving blood for more than 50 years. As a leader in blood collecting and screening techniques, the Red Cross has helped to develop new techniques that have assisted in providing safer blood to those who need it which helps to lessen complications and transmittable illnesses.

As the Red Cross moved into the 21st century, it has begun to spread out into other life-saving areas. It has concentrated training and public awareness in the fields of First Aid, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED), and water safety training.

Although I hope I shall never need the American Red Cross's emergency services and aid, it is good to know that we have such an outstanding organization there if such a situation should arise. The vision of Ms. Barton has come to fruition to the benefit of all Americans, and for this I want to recognize both Clara Barton and the organization that she founded, The American Red Cross.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
MARJORIE L. POSEY PFAFF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the honorable, compassionate, and influential life of the late Marjorie L. Posey Pfaff of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District which I proudly represent. Marge leaves behind a legacy of a life dutifully fulfilled and a state proudly served. Throughout Marge's lifetime, her love of living, enthusiasm for her relationships with the many friends she held so dear, and unwavering devotion to not only her career in real-estate, but also to Missouri politics revealed Marge as an unequaled, exemplary leader in this great state.

Born to Clyde O. and Crystal V. Alexander, Marge began what became an honorable, dignified life on October 10, 1926 in Chillicothe, Missouri. Married to the late Francis Leon (Toby) Pfaff on December 19, 1977, Marge began a family that would go with her from Chillicothe to Independence, Missouri, the hometown of President Harry S. Truman and Marge's hallowed resting place. Her son, Robert Posey and his wife Dana remain in Independence, continuing to share the gift of generosity which their mother so dearly possessed.

Marge began her long career in real-estate in Chillicothe, where she owned the Gaslight-Pfaff Realty Company. From this small operation in Chillicothe, Marge would later work for ReMax and finally Reece and Nichols in Independence. Marge began her long career as nearly one in a million women who would later come to compose a much larger contingent of our real-estate industry. Marge let her light of experience and charm shine, earning the Missouri Association of Realtors salesperson of

the year in 1997 and as the Kansas City Association of Realtors salesperson of the year in 1996. As a female pioneer in her craft, Marge tirelessly sought to make possible the success and equality of opportunity for women in not only the real-estate industry, but also in politics.

Serving as a president of the Independence Young Matrons and the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital Auxiliary, Marge found a voice amongst equals who would come to herald her as a leader not only for her deep connectivity to influential individuals in her state, connections she earned through her sharp wit and unforgettable personality, but also because of her steadfast dedication to the success of her ideals. She forged ahead in all of the many political activities in which she was involved, never for personal gain, but for the greater potential of providing equal opportunity for all. Her service as the president of the Women's Council of Realtors and beloved participation in the Real Estate Political Action Committee afforded not only the great state of Missouri, but also our Nation an opportunity to share in the historical breakthrough of a unique and powerful woman to the apex of both respect and heroism in whose likes few before her have been held. As Federal political coordinator for the Fifth Congressional District, Marge proved only what I knew to expect from her since the first time she and I met, nothing but excellence and caring commitment.

We rejoice in the life of Marge today not only because she, like so many, sought to share in the American dream of the equality of opportunity for all of our neighbors, but because she tirelessly endeavored to make it a reality. Overcoming the adversity that once lay before her, a woman whose very heart and soul worked to shake the male-dominated establishment around her, Marge creates for not only all women, but all those held behind by the oppression of myopia, a bastion of hope and a model of success to guide them all to a promise of equality that we too often find neglected.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to my dearly departed friend, Marjorie L. Posey Pfaff, for her loving devotion and limitless dedication to serving the residents of Kansas City, the State of Missouri, and our Nation. Strong, sustainable societies are built upon a foundation of goodness and dedication. It is our hometown heroes, like Marge, the well revered and benevolent, who ensure the longevity of, and strengthen, our free and democratic way of life. May God continue to bless Marge as she lives on forever in our memories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, on May 8, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll No. 295, on agreeing to the Hensarling amendment to H.R. 5818. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JERRY BEASLEY'S SERVICE TO CONCORD UNIVERSITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jerry L. Beasley and his 23 years of service to the students and faculty of Concord University. Concord University is home to over 2700 of West Virginia's best and brightest students and one of the finest public universities in the Nation. Since 1985, Jerry has led the faculty and staff of Concord University as President of this great institution and is now set to retire on June 30, 2008.

Born and raised in Hinton, West Virginia, Jerry has devoted his life to improving our State's educational opportunities. He earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1966 and his master's in education degree in 1969. He worked at Harvard as an assistant to the admissions committee for the college before joining the West Virginia Commission of Higher Education. In 1972, he came to Concord College as a special assistant to the President before being hired by Waynesburg College as Vice President for Planning and Development from 1974-1982 where his efforts more than tripled gifts and grants for operations.

In 1979, he was awarded a Ph.D. from Stanford University where his doctoral research focused on innovations in State government. His last stop before returning to Concord was at West Virginia Wesleyan, where Jerry served as Vice President for Planning and Development. In 1985, Jerry became President at Concord, and in what would be the first of many signs of his lifelong dedication to the institution of higher learning, he decided to forgo the traditional inauguration and instead devoted the funds and efforts for the ceremony to the support of student scholarships.

During his tenure, Jerry has been a godsend to Concord University, helping it to expand and flourish, and has played a powerful role in developing one of the largest endowments of any West Virginia public college. At close to \$23 million, the Concord University Foundation is number one among small public colleges and universities in the state. He also oversaw major changes and improvements to the campus from the physical plant, Marsh Hall, the science building and new technology centers on campus. From special assistant to the President to being installed as President himself, Jerry has left his mark on virtually every aspect of the University and touched countless lives around him.

Jerry's list of accomplishments far exceeds his years of service. He has nurtured generations of young minds and helped shape the higher education system in West Virginia. His dedication to his work and commitment to helping others are examples for us all.

I again congratulate Jerry on his 23 years of dedicated service to Concord University and wish his wife Jean and himself continued success in all their future endeavors here in Athens.

## TAIWAN

**HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, on March 22nd, the people of Taiwan elected a new President with an impressive voter turnout of 76 percent. Outgoing President Chen Shui-bian and his administration pledged to transfer power peacefully to the new administration. This free and democratic transition could never have happened on the other side of the Taiwan Strait, which is why we must stand with Taiwan and guarantee its survival against threats from communist China.

Today Taiwan is a prosperous democracy that serves as a model for countries throughout the region and the developing world. Unfortunately, Taiwan faces a constant threat from the Chinese mainland. Right now there are over a thousand Chinese missiles aimed at Taiwan. The Chinese government has threatened to use force against Taiwan by passing the provocative Anti-Secession Law in 2005. The Chinese military buildup along the Taiwan Strait and the Anti-Secession Law threaten peace and democracy in the region. Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in commending the Taiwanese people for their strength and refusal to allow mainland China to determine their future by force.

The Taiwan Relations Act forms the bedrock of our Taiwan policy and affirms that the future of Taiwan should be determined by peaceful means. The United States should continue to preserve and enhance the human rights of the people of Taiwan. As we bid farewell to President Chen and his administration this month, I know my colleagues will join me in reaffirming our commitment to preserve the peace, prosperity and liberty of the free people of Taiwan.

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**HONORING THE CITY OF GREENSBORO'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**
**HON. BRAD MILLER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Greensboro's Bicentennial Celebration.

Since 1808, the citizens of Greensboro have been pioneers in manufacturing, education, and civil rights for North Carolina and our Nation. Greensboro has been and remains a leader in economic and cultural development within North Carolina.

Greensboro became the "Gate City" at the turn of the last century, as North Carolina's rail trade and manufacturing center. Greensboro soon became a leader in North Carolina's textile industry. Henry Humphreys opened the state's first steam-powered cotton mill, and by the 1940s, Greensboro businesses were flourishing. Rayon weaving from Burlington Industries, denim from Cone Mills, and overalls from Blue Bell became some of the biggest manufacturers in the world for their products. In the late 1980s, the Piedmont Triad International Airport reestablished Greensboro's place as a

travel and transportation hub for North Carolina.

Greensboro has always been at the forefront of education in North Carolina. Greensboro College, the first state-chartered college for women, opened its doors in 1833. In 1837, Quakers founded the first co-educational school in the state: Greensboro's "New Garden Boarding School," known today as Guilford College. Greensboro Technical Community College has provided training and education since 1958. What began as Women's College and is now The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a historically black land grant institution, are state leaders in university research, development, and art. With such a strong concentration of academia, Greensboro has naturally developed a thriving cultural scene, particularly renowned for theater, music, and film. The last few decades have seen an expanded public library system, a children's museum, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, and work in historic preservation.

Greensboro has played a pivotal role in the struggle for racial equality. Greensboro was a stop for the Underground Railroad, as citizens both black and white helped slaves escape to the North. In 1873, Greensboro founded the Bennett College for Women to provide education to newly emancipated slaves. On February 1, 1960, four North Carolina A & T students sat down at the Woolworth's white-only lunch counter. Ezell Blair, Jr., now Jibreel Khazan, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond remained seated until the store closed, and returned the next day. The "Greensboro Four" inspired similar civil rights protests all over the South. The sit-in protest in Greensboro was the moment the civil rights struggle became a movement. Later, Greensboro's peaceful public school integration was a model for other communities all over the Nation. Today, Greensboro celebrates a diverse population, with citizens from Southeast Asian, Eastern European, Latin American, and African communities. Honoring the tradition begun with the Underground Railroad, Greensboro welcomes refugees from conflicts around the world in Sudan, Myanmar, Liberia, and on and on.

I am proud to honor the Bicentennial Celebrations of the City of Greensboro. And honored to represent its people in the United States Congress.

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**FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY**
**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May. Friedrich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder that is usually diagnosed in childhood. It causes muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood.

There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedrich's ataxia.

Although there is no effective treatment or cure available, Friedrich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. In fact, that hope has been translated into increasing confidence that treatment and a cure for Friedrich's ataxia will be achieved. An extraordinary explosion of research insights has followed the identification of the Friedrich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedrich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments. In fact, they have recently declared that, "in Friedrich's ataxia, we have entered the treatment era." That treatment era is being characterized by the two clinical trials already underway and four additional trials to be initiated over the next 12 months. These investigators and our patient families believe very strongly that these clinical trials will result in the first approved treatments for Friedrich's ataxia.

At the National Institutes of Health across the country and around the world, clinical trials for Friedrich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. Growing cooperation among organizations supporting the research and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals provide powerful evidence of the increasing hope and determination to conquer Friedrich's ataxia. There is also a growing conviction that treatments can and will be developed for this disease and that the resulting insights will be broadly applicable across a wide range of neurological disorders such as Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country to increase public awareness of Friedrich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance, FARA, for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 17, 2008, as Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

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**INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO STUDY METHODS OF ERADICATING ASIAN CARP FROM THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM, H.R. 6031**
**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to introduce legislation which provides for the exploration of methods to eradicate the dangerous Asian carp from the Great Lakes.

Each year, invasive species in the Great Lakes cause more than \$5 billion in economic

damage and irreparable harm to an ecosystem that provides more than forty million people with jobs, water, food, and recreation. A new invader, the Asian carp, threatens to further destroy the region's ecosystem and economy, and it is imperative that we act to prevent this catastrophe.

A single barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, built as a temporary demonstration project five years ago, is the only thing preventing these invaders from entering Lake Michigan and drastically altering the entire region's ecosystem. While Congress recently provided full authorization and funding for this critical barrier, it may not be enough to prevent the Asian carp from infiltrating the Great Lakes and the devastating consequences that would follow.

It is therefore critical that we also explore alternatives and supplements to the carp barrier. My legislation would direct the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration and Great Lakes States to conduct a study on the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. The legislation specifically directs the agencies to study the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a means to eradicate the invasive species in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to explore all possibilities to effectively eliminate the threat this dangerous species poses to our Nation's most precious natural resource.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLE VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER IN WICHITA, KANSAS

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and administrators of the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, past, present and future.

For 75 years, the Dole Veterans Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas has improved the health and overall well-being of all veterans who visited. The capable and trusted staff has provided care, comfort and answers to multitudes of difficult questions. When our brave service men and women return home to the State of Kansas, they know, and they have known for three quarters of a century, that their wounds, whether physical or psychological, will not go untreated. They have encountered care, compassion and wisdom from the staff here at Dole Veterans Medical Center. With our support, that level of care will only increase.

In my first 2 years in office, this House has voted to add almost \$18 billion more in veterans funding. Many of those dollars are directed specifically to health care needs which had, in the past, been grossly underfunded.

I will continue to fight for increases in funding directed toward veterans' health care programs, in order to help preserve the legacy of quality health care and fuel improvements for the future.

The Dole Veterans Medical Center, with its 75 years of success and unparalleled performance, is an absolute godsend. The State of Kansas thanks everyone involved in making that true and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service and the service of all our Nation's veterans.

CHINA'S EARTHQUAKE

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, for the people in and around the city of Seattle, home to my Seventh Congressional District, the devastating earthquake in China is very personal and very painful.

For over a quarter century, Seattle and Chongqing, in the Sichuan province, hardest hit by the quake, have been sister cities. I'm proud that I was a member of the 1982 delegation which established the relationship with the people of Chongqing.

It is always difficult to see devastation on a scale like this, but it's especially hard when there are direct and personal ties, as there are with the people in Sichuan province, where the death toll keeps climbing.

The magnitude of this tragedy is hard to comprehend, and we want to help any way we can.

Seattle has a significant Chinese community and people are making every effort to obtain news about family members and friends.

And, as a community, we are involved in relief efforts.

Constituents in the Seventh Congressional District are donating money and supplies to international relief organizations.

Companies and organizations in and around Seattle are helping.

And, people across Washington are involved as well.

I applaud them all for their generosity and willingness to get involved.

I want the Chinese government and Chinese people to know that they are not alone in this time of tragedy.

Geography may separate us, but humanity unites us.

If you want to get involved, world renowned organizations like World Vision and Mercy Corps are leading relief efforts. All that we do will help.

SGT. LUKE SHIRLEY AND  
SPECIALIST JOSHUA SHIRLEY

**HON. TIM MAHONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two soldiers and brothers, Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley of LaBelle, Florida.

Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley bravely served their country in Iraq when Luke was severely injured by a land mine in December 2007. Upon returning home, Joshua received orders to return to Iraq. Joshua felt he could best serve his brother

and his country by helping his brother and fellow soldier, Luke, recover and petitioned to stay in the United States.

The Department of the Army reassigned Specialist Joshua Shirley to a post in the Washington, DC area to allow him to be close to his recovering brother. Sgt. Luke Shirley's courage in battle and Specialist Joshua Shirley's devotion to his brother and his country exemplify what it is to be true American heroes. These brave young men put their lives on the line to serve our country. America owes them a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of LaBelle, the 16th District, and the United States, I would like to express my immense gratitude to Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these remarkable young men.

Below is a poem written by Bert Caswell to honor the Shirley Brothers.

THE BOOK OF LUKE

The Book of Luke . . .

Written by a fine young Man, of Character,  
Courage, Honor and Truth!

Who went off to war, as had all his fine family  
of patriots . . . so many times as before.

It's all about a family. . . .

Who but for, God and Country. . . . so much pain and heartache endured! All for Our Freedom to ensure, as what they have given. . . . all in their living, they bore!

Luke, an Army Man. . . .

Who as one fine warrior, of strength in honor . . . and character does stand!

As him and his brother Josh too, both were on their third tours. . . . as together they would band!

When, in The

Face of Death!

With, only but an arm and leg so left . . . he would stand . . . all in this his most heroic quest!

To rebuild, as his heart to all so instills . . . of what is good, is great . . . of what is best!

For in him, there are no regrets!

Not looking back, for in life it's only about what you do in your short time . . . in those pages you have left!

As he has our Nation so blessed, as his soul to our's does so caress!

As this book he so writes . . .

To all hearts so invites, for us to look into our own lives . . . between what's wrong, and is right!

To so find in this world, what it is which burns bright . . . and what really counts, on this very night!

Chapter and Verse!

What have the words, of our lives so versed? What have we so written, which so comes first?

For it's only the few, who have so who . . . have written and so shined so too . . . that for Heaven does search!

For we write the words, that our Lord and his Angels have read and so heard . . . which burn bright!

Found in all of our lives of courage, faith and sacrifice . . . are inspiration, touching all souls here tonight.

When, all is said and done . . . in what's really to be won when we leave this light!

Could we but write?

With our hearts and our souls, such a courageous fight . . . to march off into the dark, to leave the light!

To go off to war, for your country . . . such heartache and burdens bore . . . and rebuild, with no hope in sight!

In The Book of Luke, he has spoken . . .  
Of chapters of faith he's invoking, of character and courage spoken . . . all in his actions invoking . . .  
Of an American Hero, A Tale of Hope then . . . and Inspiration, To Teach our children, worth quoting!

The Heart!

The greatest of all things, which can not so be stopped nor so broken!

Which pound's, with his words of faith, courage and hope then, in The Book of Luke he has spoken!

In honor of Luke Shirley, and his brother Josh both in The United States Army . . . who came home with him to help him heal, and their family of generations who have

fought for our country and given so much throughout the generations so we could live free. . . . Their uncles, Dwight Harris Williams Jr., Kenneth Wayne Williams, John Dennis Williams were all Marines and did tours in Vietnam.

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THE DAILY 45: HELDER TOMAR

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 13, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the

United States. We have become too numb to the continued violence that plays out daily. On April 26, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, 19-year-old Helder Tomar was shot and killed in Jenks Park in Central Falls. Unfortunately, this set off a cycle of teenage violence in Pawtucket and Central Falls.

According to a local newspaper, a young man said the obvious: "Death is part of life, but it's supposed to be natural, not by violence, not by strife."

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say, "Enough is enough, stop the killing."